CONDO COOL: Wisdom from decorators who beautify small spaces | **Inside**

express

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Weekend

ROGELINO V. SOLIS/AP

James Ford Seale, 71, is escorted from court.

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ENTERTAINMENT

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Weather >> Partly Sunny

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FULL FORECAST ON PAGE 50

MAHMOUT TAWIL/AP

Beirut Under Curfew After Riots

DEADLY CLASHES: An injured man is carried to a hospital Thursday after university students loyal to Lebanon's government clashed with Hezbollah supporters in Beirut, setting cars ablaze and battling with homemade clubs and stones. At least four people were killed before the military declared Beirut's first curfew since 1996. ❖ **Hope, despair:** Violence comes amid aid conference in Paris | **Page 9**

'06 Worst Year Ever For Ford

Automaker lost nearly $2K for every car and truck sold

DEARBORN, MICH. | Ford Motor Co. lost a staggering $12.7 billion in 2006 — an average of $1,925 for every car and truck it sold and the worst loss in the company's 103-year history.

The company that invented the assembly line and whose name was a byword for the auto industry warned it will bleed cash for two more years before it has a shot at making money.

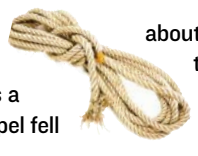
Ford's loss, reported Thursday, came amid slumping demand for sport utility vehicles and other gas-guzzlers and huge restructuring costs tied in part to the planned closure of 16 plants. Last year's loss surpassed Ford's old record of $7.39 billion set in 1992.

Ford's loss wasn't the worst annual total in the auto industry. General Motors Corp. lost $23.4 billion in 1992, due mainly to accounting rule changes on health care liabilities.

Ford predicted more losses for this year and in 2008, but the Dearborn-based company said its restructuring plan is on track to return to profitability in 2009.

"We know where we are. We are dealing with it and we're on plan," Chief Executive Officer Alan Mulally told reporters and industry analysts in a conference call. TOM KRISHER (AP)

OVEREAGERNESS | **Dude, Wait Till the 4th Date**



An Atlantic Highlands, N.J., resident was charged with disorderly conduct Saturday after jumping off a bridge to impress a woman on their second date, CBS News reported. Adam Koppel fell about 30 feet into a river and then clung to the base of the bridge. It took four police officers, a bridge tender and two passers-by using a rope and ladder to haul the man up. The woman said there would not be a third date. (EXPRESS) **EyeOpeners** | **Page 2**

eyeOpeners

DAYLIGHT

Mich. Students, Vampires Share Bond

Flint, Mich., children under the age of 17 will be banned from public places during daytime hours under a new ordinance approved by the City Council. The curfew, which goes into effect in about a month, will be from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on school days. Councilman Sheldon Neeley said statistics show that more than 60 percent of Flint ninth-graders will not graduate. The ordinance allows police to arrest a child who is supposed to be in school. Parents who do not pick up their children within three hours of being notified would be guilty of a misdemeanor. (AP)

GLITCHES

That Winner Alarm Always Goes Off

A man thought he won a $100,000 jackpot, only to be offered a couple of free buffet meals instead. Stephen Wilkinson was playing the slots at a Bensalem, Pa., casino, when the message board lit up saying he had won more than $100,000. Casino officials said it was an electronic error. (AP)

AP

CENSORSHIP

Pigging Out

China's media is taking steps to limit references to pork in celebrations of the upcoming Year of the Pig so as to not offend Muslims, Fox News reported. China Central Television said it will ban verbal discussion and images of pork in advertising during the Lunar New Year. A television ad featuring a smiling cartoon pig and the message "Happy pig new year!" has already been rejected. "China is a multiethnic country," the network said. "To show respect for Islam, and upon guidance from higher levels of the government, CCTV will keep any pig images off the screen." Many companies are now reworking their advertising. (EXPRESS)

Honey, I'm going to need to you bake a plasma flat-screen monitor into a cake.

CONTRABAND

Forget Cigarettes — Get Us Some YouTube

Smokes, drugs and food aren't the only contraband being smuggled into prison. Two Little Rock, Ark., state prison employees have been fired in a scandal over smuggled computer parts. State officials say four others are on leave and one resigned. Correction Department spokeswoman Dina Tyler said the electronic components allowed inmates to build bootleg computers and potentially get on the Internet. (AP)

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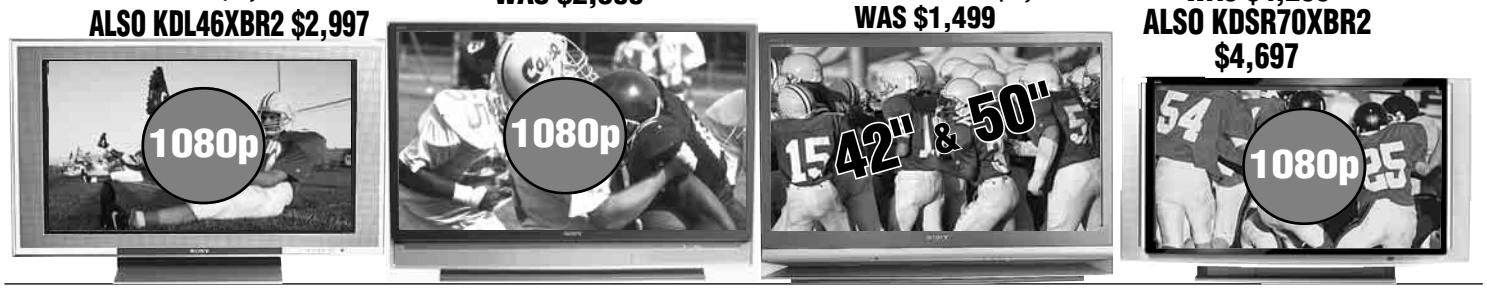

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NICE PACKAGING: Available soon: an official New York City condom. To reduce rates of sexually transmitted diseases and AIDS, the city will promote free condoms with jazzy packaging. One idea is a subway theme, with maps on the wrappers.

Nation

In Brief

SPARTANBURG, S.C.

Hunter Launches '08 Bid

Rep. Duncan Hunter, R-Calif., best known for his advocacy on behalf of the military, launched a longshot bid for the presidency Thursday in this early voting state. Frequently citing Ronald Reagan, Hunter told supporters he wants to pick up on the former president's legacy. "I want to lead that policy of peace through strength," said Hunter, a strong supporter of the Iraq war. (AP)

ALEX C. HICKS JR./AP

Rep. Duncan Hunter, R-Calif., left, made his presidential run official.

CHAPEL HILL, N.C.

2,700 Students Receive Erroneous Admissions Letter

An admissions department e-mail sent from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill congratulated 2,700 prospective freshmen this week on their acceptance to the school. The problem is that none of the applicants have been admitted. They won't start finding out until March whether they've made the cut. "We deeply regret this disappointment," Stephen Farmer, the school's director of undergraduate admissions, said in a news release. (AP)

Cheney Spokeswoman Rebuts Libby

Questions center on when ex-aide learned identity of CIA officer

WASHINGTON | Vice President Dick Cheney's spokeswoman testified Thursday she told I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby that a prominent war critic's wife was a CIA employee earlier than Libby has said he first learned it from a reporter.

On the third day of Libby's trial, Cathie Martin became the first member of Cheney's inner circle to contradict statements by Libby that led to the charges he lied to the FBI and a grand jury investigating who leaked the wife's identity to reporters in 2003.

Theodore Wells, defense lawyer for Cheney's former chief of staff, quickly sought to limit any damage from the testimony of Cheney's former assistant for public affairs.

Wells got Martin to acknowledge that she herself could not recall for sure whether she relayed the information about CIA operative Valerie Plame, wife of Iraq war critic Joseph Wilson, to Cheney and Libby on June 11, 2003, or as late as July 6, 2003.

The date is important because Libby told investigators he first heard of Plame's job from NBC reporter Tim Russert on July 10. Libby claims that because he was preoccupied with pressing national security issues, he simply forgot he had earlier learned about her work at the CIA from government officials. MICHAEL J. SNIFFEN (AP)

DANA VERKOUTEREN/AP

A court drawing shows Theodore V. Wells Jr., center, questioning Cathie Martin, Vice President Dick Cheney's spokeswoman, Thursday in I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby's trial.

Man Pleads Not Guilty to Slayings

Former Miss. deputy charged with killing 2 black men in 1964

JACKSON, MISS. | A reputed Ku Klux Klansman and former sheriff's deputy accused in the 1964 slayings of two black men pleaded not guilty Thursday, and in a measure of how things have changed across the American South, the judge he stood before was a black woman.

With his wrists and ankles shackled, 71-year-old James Ford Seale repeatedly addressed the judge as "ma'am," a social courtesy whites typically denied to blacks in Mississippi 43 years ago.

Seale was arrested Wednesday on federal charges of kidnapping and conspiracy. Prosecutors said Charles Eddie Moore and Henry Hezekiah Dee, both 19, were seized and beaten by Klansmen, then thrown into the Mississippi River to drown. A second white man long suspected in the attack, reputed KKK member Charles Marcus Edwards, 72, has not been charged. (AP)

ROGELIO V. SOLIS/AP

James Ford Seale, 71, is escorted from the courtroom in shackles Thursday.

Soldier Gets 18 Years for Killings

FORT CAMPBELL, KY. | A 101st Airborne Division soldier was sentenced Thursday to 18 years in prison for murdering a detainee and taking part in the killings of two others in Iraq last year.

Pfc. Corey R. Clagett, 22, was one of four soldiers from the division's 3rd Brigade "Rakkasans" who were accused in the detainees' deaths during a May 9 raid on the Muthana chemical complex in Samarra, about 60 miles north of Baghdad. (AP)

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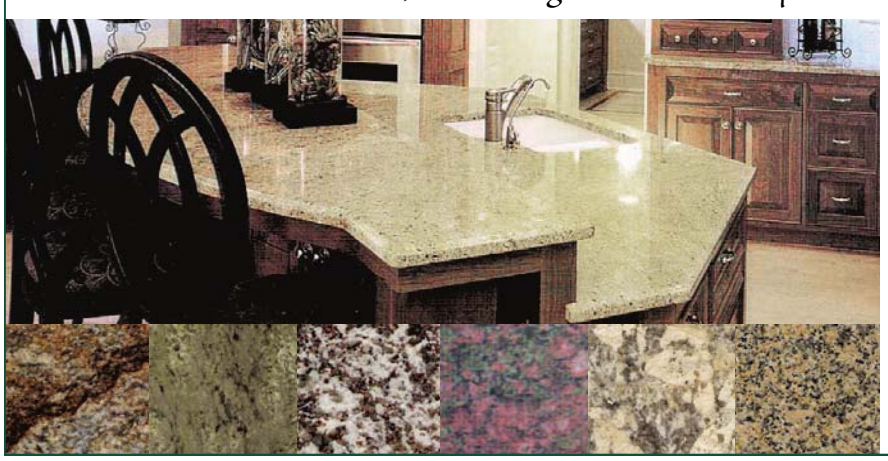

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Nation

AW, NUTS: New Jersey has warned squirrel hunters near a toxic waste dump about eating the animals after a lead-contaminated squirrel was found in the area two months ago. The Department of Health and Senior Services says adults should eat squirrel no more than twice a week — and even less often for children and pregnant women.

Dems Wary of Adding Funds to Iraq

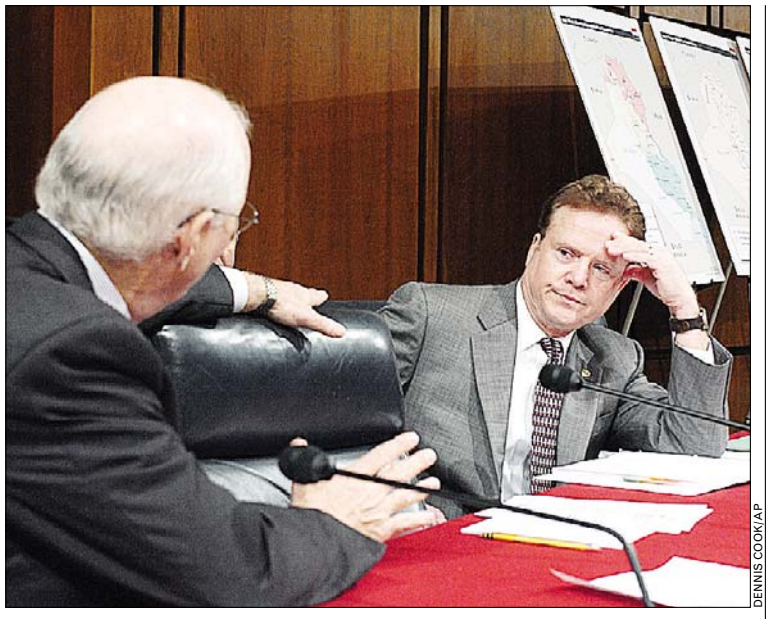
Panel shows concern over cost of rebuilding country in such unrest

WASHINGTON | Members of a Senate committee that voted against President Bush's Iraq plan said Thursday they also are wary of pouring more money into rebuilding while the security situation is so dire.

"I want you to know that I am not inclined to support any additional funding in this area without strong assurances that this sort of mismanagement has been alleviated," said Sen. Jim Webb, D-Va.

A day earlier, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee voted 12-9 in favor of a resolution condemning Bush's decision to send 21,500 more troops to Iraq. The vote largely was along party lines. Nebraska Sen. Chuck Hagel was the sole Republican who supported the measure.

A full Senate vote could come as early as the week of Feb. 5, Democratic leaders said on Thursday.



DENNIS COOK/AP

Senate Foreign Relations Committee members Sen. Benjamin Cardin, D-Md., left, and Sen. Jim Webb, D-Va., confer about Bush's plans to add funds for Iraq.

Bush says the troops are needed to provide security for rebuilding efforts.

As part of his new strategy, Bush pledged an additional $1.2 billion and said the Iraqi government designated $10 billion.

The State Department is expanding the number of reconstruction teams for Baghdad and the western Anbar province, sending some 300 additional civilian personnel to Iraq.

On Thursday, Republicans and Democrats told a State Department official they are concerned the extra money could fuel corruption or the insurgency.

"Some of us have become very skeptical of the capacity — our capacity to organize this and the capacity to actually implement it," said Sen. Joseph Biden, the committee chairman.

The department has spent nearly $15 billion on reconstruction, said Biden, D-Del., and, "as you know better than I do, the results aren't pretty."

Indiana Sen. Richard Lugar, the committee's top Republican, said Congress should get more detailed reports from the administration on progress made and money spent in Iraq.

"Overall, the results have been disappointing to the Iraqi people, to Congress and to American taxpayers," he said about the rebuilding efforts. ANNE FLAHERTY (AP)

Obama Seeks Universal Health Care in 6 Years

WASHINGTON | Every American should have health care coverage within six years, Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., said Thursday as he set an ambitious goal soon after jumping into the 2008 presidential race.

Obama

"The time has come for universal health care in America,"Obama said at a conference of Families USA, a health care advocacy group. "I am absolutely determined that by the end of the first term of the next president, we should have universal health care in this country."

Obama was previewing what is shaping up to be a theme of the 2008 Democratic primary. His chief rivals, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y., and John Edwards, also are strong proponents of universal health care and have promised to offer their plans. (AP)

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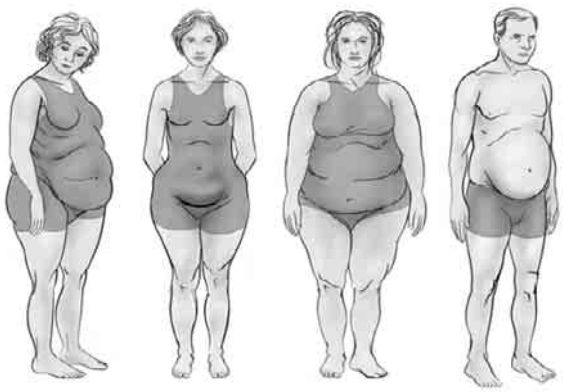

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Nation

Brain Region Tied To Smoking Urge

Researchers target the insula in a new effort to battle addiction

WASHINGTON | Damage to a silver dollar-sized spot deep in the brain seems to wipe out the urge to smoke, a surprising discovery that may shed important new light on addiction.

The research was inspired by a stroke survivor who claimed he simply forgot his two-pack-a-day addiction — no cravings, no nicotine patches, not even a conscious desire to quit.

"The quitting is like a light switch that went off," said Dr. Antoine Bechara of the University of Southern California, who scanned the brains of 69 smokers and ex-smokers to pinpoint the region involved. "This is very striking."

The finding, reported in Friday's edition of the journal Science, points scientists toward new ways to develop anti-smoking aids by targeting this little-known brain region called the insula.

And it sparked excitement among addiction specialists who expect the insula to play a key role in other addictions, too.

"What this study shows unequivocally is the insula is a key structure in the brain for perceiving the urges to take the drug," urges that are "the backbone of the addiction," said Dr. Nora Volkow, director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse and a longtime investigator of the brain's addiction pathways.

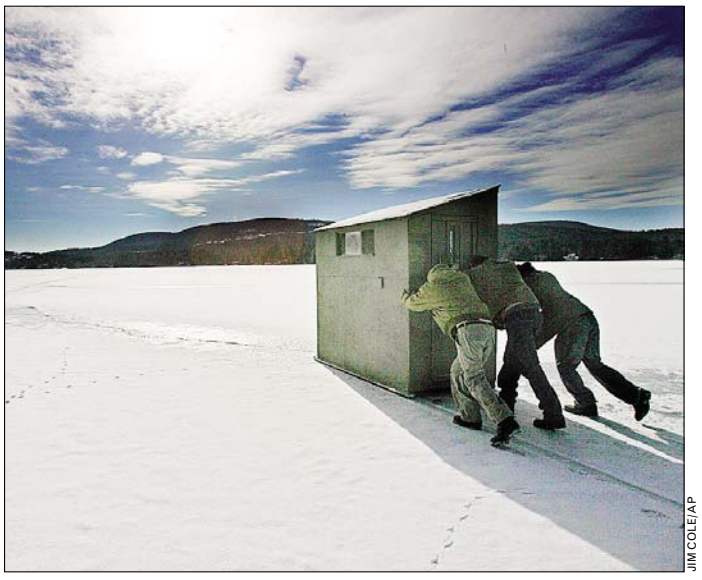
Why? The insula appears to be where the brain turns physical reactions into feelings, such as feeling anxious when your heart speeds up. When those reactions are caused by a particular substance, the insula may act like sort of a headquarters for cravings.

Some 44 million Americans smoke, and the government says more than 400,000 a year die of smoking-related illnesses.

Declines in smoking have slowed in recent years, making it unlikely that the nation will reach a public health goal of reducing the rate to 12 percent by 2010.

LAURAN NEERGAARD (AP)

WEATHER | ICE DAY FOR A FISHING TRIP



JIM COLE/AP

A BIG PUSH: Ty Lowthian, his father, Bob Lowthian, and friend Devon Wiley push a bobhouse onto frozen Lake Winnipesaukee in Alton, N.H., Thursday. The home is used as a shelter from wind and cold while ice fishing.

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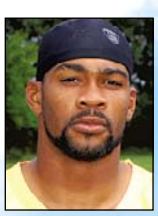

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BOOM TIME: China's economy surged in 2006, moving it closer to overtaking Germany as the world's third largest economy. It may have No. 2 Japan and No. 1 U.S. in its sights if it doesn't succumb to the pitfalls of a hot economy, like soaring inflation and rampant debt.

World

In Brief

JOHN MOORE/GETTY IMAGES

A member of the Afghan Eradication Force cuts down poppies in April 2006.

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN

Officials: Karzai Nixes Plan To Spray Down Poppy Fields

Rebuffing months of U.S. pressure, Afghan President Hamid Karzai decided against a Colombia-style program to spray this country's heroin-producing poppies after the Cabinet worried herbicide would hurt legitimate crops, animals and humans, officials said Thursday. The decision, reportedly made Sunday, dashes U.S. hopes for mounting a campaign using ground sprayers to poison poppy plants to help combat Afghanistan's opium trade after a record crop in 2006. (AP)

DAVOS, SWITZERLAND

Saudi Princess Says She Would Allow Women Drivers

The most prominent princess in Saudi Arabia's royal family said Thursday that if she could change one thing about her country, she would let women drive — a rare and direct challenge to the driving ban imposed by the kingdom's ruling male elite. The remarks from Princess Lolwah Al-Faisal came at the World Economic Forum. (AP)

CONAKRY, GUINEA

Clashes Between Security Forces, Protesters Kill 59

Battles between security forces and protesters in Guinea earlier this week killed at least 59 people, almost double the toll previously reported, the Health Ministry said Thursday. The demonstrations turned deadly when security forces opened fire on rock-hurling protesters, who called on long-ruling President Lansana Conte to give up power to a transitional government. (AP)

Fiery Beirut Protests Spur Curfew

Government foes, supporters clash anew, leaving at least 4 dead

BEIRUT | The Lebanese army imposed a curfew on the capital Thursday after hundreds of government supporters and foes wielded rocks, sticks, molotov cocktails and, occasionally, guns in street battles that dragged on past nightfall. Four people were killed and 150 wounded, officials said, many of them soldiers who at times stood helplessly in between the two sides.

The clashes, which began in a university cafeteria and spread to the surrounding neighborhood of Tariq Jedideh, were some of the worst since Lebanon's 15-year civil war ended in 1990 and offered a bitter contrast to the optimism of an international conference in Paris, where more than $7.6 billion was pledged to help Lebanon's economy recover from last summer's war between Israel and the Shiite Muslim movement Hezbollah.

As the grants and loans were announced in Paris, bursts of gunfire echoed along the airport road here and columns of black smoke rose from burning cars that littered the curbside and parking lots.

Hundreds of Hezbollah followers poured into Tariq Jedideh, many of them carrying sticks and chains. At one point, their opponents burned a Hezbollah banner, a searing image that spoke to the jarring rise in tension between Sunni Muslims, largely aligned with the government, and Hezbollah's supporters since the crisis began two months ago.

The army and security officers deployed in force after the clashes erupted, but often fired into the air or simply gave way.

The images reverberated across Beirut, anxious and uneasy since Dec. 1, when Hezbollah and its allies began their campaign to topple the government of Prime Minister Fouad Siniora with a mass protest in the downtown area. In the streets, there were grim reminders of the civil war: Young, Swaggering young men asked residents whether they were Sunni or Shiite; cars were attacked because of their owner's sect.

The curfew itself was the first since the war ended.

"It's going to get worse. Look at all this," said Salah al-Sheikh, a 40-year-old Sunni resident. "A few days ago, they were in the same schools and the same universities. Look what's happening now. Why? That's all I want to ask. Why?"

ANTHONY SHADID (THE WASHINGTON POST)

MAHMOUD TAWIL/AP

TENSIONS FLARE: Men try to extinguish a car after clashes between government supporters and foes in Beirut on Thursday.

A Region on the Edge

➜ The fighting in Lebanon was an episode, writ small, of an increasingly precarious Middle East, riven by sectarian tension and simmering civil conflict. | Today, A Section

IN The Washington Post

Suicide Car Bombing Kills 26 in Iraq

PM insists there will be 'no safe place' for terrorists in country

BAGHDAD, IRAQ | Iraq's prime minister insisted Thursday there will be "no safe place in Iraq for terrorists," hours before a suicide car bombing killed at least 26 people in the Shiite neighborhood of Karradah and two rockets slammed into the heavy fortified Green Zone not far from the U.S. Embassy.

Angry Karradah residents took to the streets chanting "We want the Sunnis out!" after the blast, the second suicide bombing in three days in the neighborhood.

The attacks came on a day that police reported 61 killed in sectarian violence nationwide, including the bodies of 22 torture victims dumped in Baghdad.

Parliament held yet another raucous session, this time witnessing a heated exchange between Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki and Sunni legislator and cleric Abdul-Nasser al-Janabi, who accused the Shiite-dominated government of carrying out purges against Sunnis.

The prime minister vowed to go after those behind Baghdad's rampant violence regardless of sectarian beliefs, promising at the same time to ensure the human rights of innocent Iraqis.

"There will be no safe place in Iraq for terrorists," al-Maliki said.

BASSEM MROUE (AP)

KHALID MOHAMMED/AAP

An Iraqi soldier holds defused grenades at a Baghdad market Thursday.

Israeli President Granted Leave

JERUSALEM | Moshe Katsav temporarily relinquished his powers as Israel's president on Thursday, but defied demands from top officials to quit outright and spare the nation more anguish over rape and sexual assault allegations leveled against him.

A parliamentary committee on Thursday narrowly approved Katsav's request for a leave of absence of up to three months, but in parallel, dozens of lawmakers pressed ahead with a move to oust him. Katsav, who insists he is the innocent victim of a conspiracy, says he won't quit unless he is formally indicted. (AP)

World

POLICE ON FILM: Three Rio de Janeiro state police officers were suspended this week after photographs of them posing with tourists playing with their guns and handcuffs surfaced on the Web. The photos showed up on Flickr.com, where they were reportedly posted by Peruvian tourists.

Covert Uranium Sale Foiled

Georgia says Russian man attempted to sell bomb-grade material

MOSCOW | Russia responded with silence Thursday after Georgia revealed a foiled effort by a Russian man to sell weapons-grade uranium, an episode that appeared to cast doubt on the nation's ability to halt the black market trade in nuclear materials.

The origin of 3.5 ounces of highly enriched uranium seized early last year in the former Soviet republic remains unclear.

The Russian government said nothing publicly about the inquiry. An unidentified official at the nuclear agency Rosatom, quoted by the Interfax news agency, denied Georgian accusations that Russia was not cooperating with an investigation of the case.

U.S. and Georgian officials said Georgian authorities, aided by the CIA, set up a sting operation that led to the arrest last year of a Russian citizen who tried to sell a small amount of uranium enriched to about 90 percent U-235, suitable for use in an atomic bomb.

Georgian officials said attempts to trace the source of the nuclear material, and to investigate the man's claim that he had access to larger quantities of highly enriched uranium, failed because Russia did not cooperate.

Georgian Interior Ministry official Shota Utiashvili identified the detained man as Oleg Khinsagov, a resident of North Ossetia, a region of Russia that borders Georgia.

Alexander Pikayev, a Moscow-based defense analyst who is co-chairman of the Committee of Scientists for Global Security, said there have been thefts of nuclear material from Russian facilities in the past.

"If this uranium did come from Russia, the Russian authorities need to take this problem very seriously," he said. HENRY MEYER (AP)

URANIUM IN HAND

→ **Uranium** is more or less harmless to carry around because it does not penetrate the skin — though it will irradiate internal organs if ingested.

→ **The radioactive** emissions of highly enriched uranium are so low that detectors often fail to pick them up if they are contained in a simple lead container. (AP)

MEXICO | MILKING A PROTEST

GREGORY BULL/AP

DAIRY DEMONSTRATION: Milk producer Arturo Huerta dumps milk on a street in front of the agriculture secretary's building during a demonstration about milk prices in Mexico City, Mexico, on Thursday. The milk producers are protesting because they say they are underpaid for their product.

NOT A TRIVIAL 'PURSUIT': About 100 homeless people Thursday were guests of D.C. Mayor Adrian Fenty's office for a screening of "The Pursuit of Happyness" — starring Will Smith — a true story of a homeless dad who became a millionaire.

Local

Catoe Begins Work Leading Metro

4th general manager in less than a year to focus first on safety

WASHINGTON | The area's mass transit system Thursday got its fourth general manager in less than a year.

John B. Catoe Jr., a veteran of transit systems in California, takes over at Metro during a time of heightened scrutiny, following a series of accidents in a little more than a year in which four track workers were killed and a derailment earlier this month injured 20 passengers.

After his swearing-in at Thursday's meeting of the Metro board, Catoe said the safety of the rail and bus systems is his top priority.

"We will take whatever steps are necessary to ensure this system is safe for our customers and employees," Catoe said.

While federal safety officials continue to investigate the recent rail accidents, Catoe said he has ideas to improve safety and will announce new initiatives next week.

In one small safety step, Metro will begin installing special strobe lights on buses in Washington to warn pedestrians and other vehicles that the bus is proceeding, Catoe's predecessor, Jack Requa, said Thursday. Metro had 41 bus collisions with pedestrians, including five fatalities, in fiscal 2006.

Catoe, 59, recently served as deputy chief executive of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority. SARAH KARUSH (AP)

Day Laborers Spark Tension in D.C.

Brentwood residents newest group to gripe about muster points

WASHINGTON | Regina James says she drives past the Rhode Island Plaza every weekday morning and is miffed at the sight of more than 100 Latino men congregated and waiting for day laborer jobs in the Home Depot parking lot.

The increasing number of laborers, some of whom leave trash on the ground and urinate on a nearby wall, has heightened tension and mistrust between the Latinos and the mostly black residents of the working-class neighborhood of Brentwood.

Some residents say the day laborers' presence brings down property values, and gripe that illegal immigrants may take jobs from others.

"It's going to get worse," said James, a former advisory neighborhood commissioner.

But, at the same time, James and other residents are worried about their own reactions: They know that blacks are also out of work and also sometimes out looking for jobs. YOLANDA WOODLEE (THE WASHINGTON POST)

MELINA MARA/TWP

A group of day laborers wait Thursday on Rhode Island Avenue in Washington.

Officer Shoots 2 Men at His Home

ACCOKEEK, MD. | A county police officer shot and critically wounded two men in an altercation Wednesday at his home, and charges were pending against the men, officials said.

Cpl. Keith Washington, the deputy director of homeland security for the county's public safety agency, fired his weapon at the men who arrived at the home about 7:45 p.m. to deliver furniture, said Lt. April Delabrer, a police spokeswoman.

Witnesses said there was a dispute and one of the men assaulted the officer, Delabrer said. (AP)

Further scrutiny: Officer is a controversial figure previously accused of civil rights abuses. **Today's Post, Metro**

The Lotteries

Thursday, January 25

DISTRICT	
Mid-day Lucky Numbers	2-2-0
Evening Lucky Numbers (Wed.)	8-6-5 (Red)
Mid-day DC 4	9-8-8-5
Evening DC 4 (Wed.)	2-5-7-2
Rolling Cash Five (Wed.)	4-9-12-29-35
Daily 6 (Wed.)	7-21-27-30-31-35 (32)
Hot Lotto (Wed.)	6-10-28-30-33 (6)

MARYLAND	
Mid-day Pick 3	8-6-3
Evening Pick 3 (Wed.)	6-1-6
Mid-day Pick 4	6-1-5-7
Evening Pick 4 (Wed.)	5-4-6-5
Match 5 (Wed.)	2-9-22-24-27 (16)
Multi-Match (Wed.)	14-24-32-34-38-42

VIRGINIA	
Mid-day Pick 3	1-2-1
Evening Pick 3 (Wed.)	4-4-6
Mid-day Pick 4	8-7-4-4
Evening Pick 4 (Wed.)	3-9-1-5
Mid-day Cash 5	1-7-19-27-34
Evening Cash 5 (Wed.)	7-10-18-20-33
Win For Life (Wed.)	10-24-25-30-38-41 (20)

MULTI-STATE GAMES	
Powerball (Wed.)	9-19-29-42-53 (17)
Power Play	x3

All winning numbers are official only when validated at a lottery ticket location or a lottery claims office. Drawings that occur after Express's deadline will be published two days later.

BY THE NUMBERS: D.C. school board members are proposing to speed up emergency repairs at more than 100 system schools. (AP)

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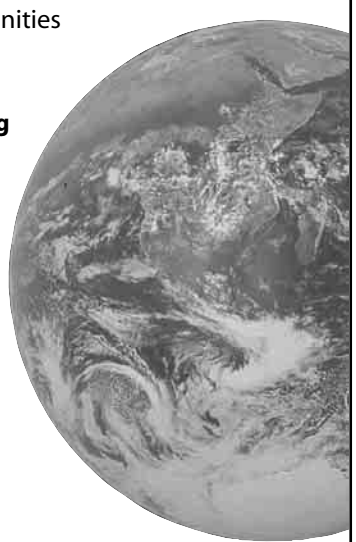

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Money

Vista Delay Cuts Earnings

Microsoft reports 28% drop in profits but revenue is strong

The long-delayed launch of the Windows Vista operating system cut into fiscal second-quarter profits at Microsoft Corp., which reported a 28 percent drop in earnings Thursday despite revenue growth that exceeded forecasts.

In the last three months of the year, earnings fell to $2.63 billion, or 26 cents per share, from $3.65 billion, or 34 cents per share, during the same period last year.

Analysts polled by Thomson Financial expected the Redmond, Wash.-based software maker to post a profit of 23 cents per share.

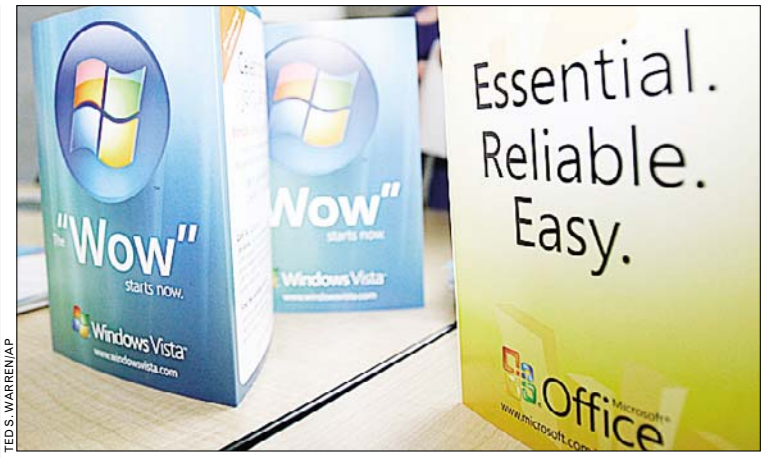
Revenue rose to $12.5 billion, a 6 percent gain from $11.8 billion in the year-ago quarter.

"Overall, it was a strong quarter," said Robert Breza, an analyst at RBC Capital Markets.

Although Windows Vista and Office 2007, the latest editions of Microsoft's flagship products, do not hit the consumer market until Tuesday, they have been available for businesses since Nov. 30, two-thirds of the way through the company's second quarter.

Even so, Microsoft's "client" division, responsible for Windows, posted a 25 percent drop in sales to $2.59 billion. And the business division, which includes Office, saw a 5 percent drop to $3.51 billion.

The falls were expected because Microsoft had warned it would be heavily deferring Windows and Office revenue from the second quarter to the current period. That was done to account for coupons that recent computer buyers got to let them upgrade their existing software to Vista and Office. (AP)



TED S. WARREN/AP

Windows Vista and Office 2007 will be available on the consumer market Tuesday.

Sales of Existing Homes Fall in '06

WASHINGTON | After a five-year boom, the nation's housing market cooled considerably in 2006, with existing home sales falling by the largest amount in 17 years.

While the worst may be over, the rebound could be slow in coming, analysts said, given a continuing huge backlog of unsold homes.

The National Association of Realtors reported Thursday that sales of existing homes totaled 6.48 million units for all of 2006, down 8.4 percent from 2005 when 7.08 million existing homes were sold, the fifth straight year that sales hit an all-time high. (AP)

Market Action

New York Stock Exchange

Gainers

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY PERCENT CHANGE
21CentIns	20.93	+4.34	+26.2
Unifi	2.33	+.42	+22.0
Avnet	29.60	+3.49	+13.4
RockTen	31.50	+2.79	+9.7
Lyondell	29.31	+2.17	+8.0

Losers

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY PERCENT CHANGE
IkonOffSol	14.78	-2.10	-12.4
VarianMed	45.77	-4.37	-8.7
Aventine n	16.24	-1.49	-8.4
DoverDG s	14.44	-1.27	-8.1
Culp Inc h	6.30	-.55	-8.0

NASDAQ Stock Market

Gainers

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY PERCENT CHANGE
Ariba Inc	9.14	+1.22	+15.4
BttmlnT	12.05	+1.58	+15.1
TridentMic	20.86	+2.59	+14.2
OvrlndStr	4.51	+.55	+13.9
Iomai	5.69	-.04	-0.7

Losers

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY PERCENT CHANGE
Conolg rs	2.93	-.49	-14.3
Plexus	18.18	-3.04	-14.3
Westell	2.52	-.42	-14.3
TriadGty	50.78	-7.67	-13.1
EDAP TMS	7.37	-1.06	-12.6

DOW	NASDAQ	S&P 500
-119.21	-32.04	-16.23
-0.94	-1.30	-1.13
12502.56	2434.24	1423.90

Pharmacy Stocks

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	YEAR TO DATE PERCENT CHANGE
AbtLab	52.59	-.96	+8.0
Allergan	117.05	-.93	-2.2
AstraZen	55.65	-1.16	+3.9
BarrPhm	54.77	-.70	+9.3
BrMySq	26.28	-.71	+.9
Cephln	73.99	+.15	+5.1
ForestLab	56.09	+.62	+10.8
Hospira	36.31	+.39	+8.1
JohnJn	66.68	-.33	+1.0
LillyEli	53.13	-.20	+2.0
Merck	46.00	-.22	+5.5
Pfizer	26.36	-.46	+1.8
SchergPl	25.12	-.14	+6.3
Sepracor	61.07	-1.27	-.8
Wyeth	51.41	-.24	+1.0

Rates

	CURRENT	PREVIOUS WEEK
Prime Rate	8.25	8.25
Fed Funds close	5.3125	5.25
3-month disc	5.01	4.99
2-year	4.98	4.89
10-year	4.88	4.75
30-year	4.97	4.84

Currency (Dollars in foreign currency)

	TODAY	PREVIOUS DAY	YEAR AGO
British Pound	.5091	.5083	.5606
Canadian Dollar	1.1813	1.1790	1.1514
European Euro	.7735	.7716	.8165
Japanese Yen	121.11	120.95	115.64
Mexican Peso	11.0277	10.9385	10.4940
Taiwanese Dollar	32.85	32.87	31.97

Sunday Preview | The Washington Post

DAVE ALLOCCA/STARTRAKSPHOTO.COM

MODEL STUDENT: Gwen Stefani reveals her L.A.M.B. spring 2007 collection, which has received rave reviews in the industry.

Star Wares

It's fashionable for celebs to moonlight as clothing designers

There's the Jessica Simpson denim. The Mandy Moore tees. The Beyonce blazers. Today's celebrities aren't content to kick back in their Malibu manses, surrounded by platinum records and People's Choice awards: They want to dress you, too. (Whether you want to dress like them is another story: Consider Paris Hilton, budding designer and No. 1 on the worst-dressed list.)

The celeb-as-designer concept is nothing new: Think of Sean Combs — or Kathie Lee Gifford. But recently, even more boldfaced names have started going the "Project Runway" route: Justin Timberlake, Nicky Hilton, Travis Barker. Jennifer Lopez, one of the category's pioneers, is expanding her wares. And high-fashion fiends soon will have a new way to copy Sienna Miller's devil-may-care chic; she plans to debut her own line later this year.

As the breadth of offerings becomes more expansive, certain lines are getting more expensive — and potentially pricing themselves out of the competition. Mary-Kate and Ashley Olsen appear to know their sweet spot, building an empire out of $10 tank tops for Wal-Mart-loving tweens.

But with her House of Dereon line, Beyonce Knowles has gone from standard jeans-and-hoodies fare to cleverly cut jackets and flutter-hem skirts — with hefty price tags to match. It has proved to be a less-than-winning combination for some stores. "It was more things that Beyonce herself would wear," says Wendy Red, fashion director of the D.C. -based Up Against the Wall. "But sometimes it's hard to duplicate that to a mass market."

That pesky mass market can invite other problems: Namely, a clothing line can be too "mass" to appeal to the very celebrity whose name appears on it. Take Simpson, whose burgeoning fashion kingdom includes tasseled tote bags, platform boots and Princy, an affordable denim and apparel line. But after the singer told an interviewer that her favorite jeans were by True Religion, rather than Princy, the brand's parent company, Tarrant Apparel, sued her for $100 million. The claim? That she failed to adequately promote her own line. (Simpson denies the claim and has since filed a countersuit.)

Some might think such issues would deter A-listers from moonlighting as designers, but this is one trend that shows little sign of abating. "Every year, I think we're saturated," says Claire Brooks, president of brand consulting company ModelPeople Inc. "And every year it gets worse and worse."

A couple of the biggest names in celebrity fashion:

Gwen Stefani's sweater and bag are chic. As for Jessica Simpson's shades ...

Beyonce Knowles

THE GOODS: House of Dereon is a line of slinky tops, cropped pants and denim that the "Dreamgirls" diva created with mother and longtime stylist Tina Knowles. Launched in 2005, the name refers to Beyonce's late grandmother, Agnez Dereon.

FASHION FORECAST: "We get phone calls every day asking about the line," says Theresa Watts, owner of D.C. boutique Lettie Gooch. "Customers are very excited about it. They know it's Beyonce." Still, Watts is debating over whether to stock House of Dereon this spring, citing high prices and inconsistent fits as reasons for her concern.

LOCATION: Lettie Gooch (1911 Ninth St. NW, 202-332-4242, www.lettiegooch.com)

Gwen Stefani

THE GOODS: L.A.M.B., Stefani's collection of printed skirts, glamazon dresses, edgy sweats and rasta-stripe handbags, first rocked the retail scene in 2004.

FASHION FORECAST: The singer's most recent album, last year's 2006's "The Sweet Escape," may have garnered mixed reviews, but her clothing line is routinely cited as one of the best. "It's really quality," says Brooks. "You get a sense of her edgy sophistication." This could explain prices that have edged into sophisticated territory: A leather-trimmed tote sells for a cool $650; a leopard-spotted blazer, $285.

LOCATION: Select Nordstrom stores and www.nordstrom.com

SUZANNE D'AMATO (THE WASHINGTON POST)

Material Girls

➜ For more on clothing lines from Jessica Simpson, J. Lo and Madonna — and where to buy their designs — see Sunday's Post. | **SUNDAY SOURCE**

ALSO THIS SUNDAY

The Price of Education
Trying to figure out a way to pay for skyrocketing college costs? Experts offer advice on a pricey issue that's not going away. | **Business**

Hillary's Bid for Support

Can women voters put Sen. Hillary Clinton, D-N.Y., into the White House? A look at one of the issues that is sure to dominate the news throughout the upcoming presidential campaign. | **Outlook**

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TERPS WOMEN'S HOOPS
Must See: Brenda Frese's defending champion Terps are set to host the second-ranked Tar Heels in a game that is already sold out. | **20**

Sports Weekend

Mistaken Identity?

The Caps must prove in the second half that they are the real deal

CAPITALS | Like a middle-aged man wedged awkwardly into a sleek sports car, the Washington Capitals entered the NHL All-Star break with a bit of an identity crisis.

"Maybe we are thinking we're better than we really are. Maybe we think we're a finesse team now as opposed to a lunchpail team," goalie and clubhouse conscience Olie Kolzig wondered following last Saturday's feeble loss to Florida. "I hope that's not the case because if it is, we've got a long 30-plus games to go."

Toward the end of last season and through the first three months of the current campaign, the Capitals established a well-earned reputation as a team that compensated for a shortage in talent with 60 minutes of frenetic effort. Toss in the consistent Kolzig, the spectacular Alex Ovechkin and better-than-expected numbers from Alexander Semin (27 goals), Chris Clark (19 g) and others, and whispers of playoff prospects were heard on F Street.

Goalie Olie Kolzig said the team needs to get back to its roots of playing hard and playing tough.

LEN REDKOLES/GETTY IMAGES

On Dec. 16, the team thumped the Philadelphia Flyers, 4-1, and moved five games above .500 for the first time in four years. But unaccustomed to the air near the summit, the Caps seemed to forget who they were.

Since then they've lost 11 of 16 games and dropped to 13th place in the 15-team Eastern Conference. The nature of some recent defeats, like a 7-3 loss in South Florida in which the Caps (20-21-7) were outshot 54-17, alarmed Kolzig.

"I don't think you ever accept losing, but you tolerate it more when you lay it all on the line," he said. "But when you're outworked, I don't think anybody can really swallow it."

Injuries certainly have played a role, depleting what already was a relatively thin squad. Long-term injuries to second-line scorer Richard Zednik and imposing defensemen Bryan Muir and John Erskine have been critical. "When you don't have a top-minute guy, it's hard," coach Glen Hanlon said.

All is not lost. The injured heal, the wayward reconnect with their roots and the Caps still sit just three points out of the last playoff spot heading into this weekend's home-and-home with Carolina.

"It's no secret," Kolzig said. "We need to get back to being the hardest working team."

BRIAN STRAUS

DOUBLE TROUBLE
The Caps start off the second half of the year with a home-and-home vs. Carolina:

➜ The Caps are 2-2 against the 'Canes this year. In their two losses (both at home), the combined score was 9-1.

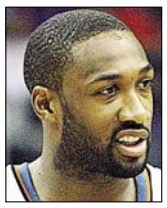
BASEBALL | **Out at Home** A N.Y. Mets fan who impersonated a reporter last season was fined $1,000 on Tuesday and banned from Mets home games for the next three years. Ryan Leli, 18 forged a press pass to get into the visiting clubhouse to interview then San Diego Padres, and former Met, catcher Mike Piazza. Leli's questions and unprofessional request for a picture with the 12-time All-Star got him ejected from the clubhouse. The ejection did not deter Leli when a week later he was arrested trying to use the same pass to enter the press entrance for the Rockies. (EXPRESS)

TV Lineup

CLIVE BRUNSKILL/GETTY IMAGES

Roger Federer is playing for yet another Grand Slam title Saturday in Australia.

➜ **CROWNING A KING AND QUEEN DOWN UNDER:** The Australian Open is coming to a close. The women's final will feature Maria Sharapova and Serena Williams on Friday (9:30 p.m. on ESPN2), and the men's semifinal will also be played on Friday (3 p.m. on ESPN2). On Saturday (3:30 a.m. on ESPN2), Roger Federer looks for his third Australian Open championship.



Gilbert Arenas

➜ **THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS:** This weekend the Wiz are set to square off against the best and worst teams in the Eastern Conference. On Friday (8 p.m. on ESPN), they travel to Motown City to battle the conference-leading Pistons. Then, they head to Beantown to battle the lowly Celtics on Sunday (6 p.m. on CW50).

➜ **A STORM IS BREWING:** After a nice All-Star break, the Caps are back in action. battling the rival Carolina Hurricanes twice in a home-and-home series. On Friday (7 p.m. on NC8), the Caps are at Carolina. Then they drop the puck at Verizon Center on Saturday (7 p.m. on CSN).

➜ **TRYING TIMES FOR TAR HEELS:** This weekend in college hoops belongs to UNC, whose No. 4 men's team visits No. 17 Arizona on Saturday (1 p.m. on CBS) and whose second-ranked women travel to College Park to play Maryland on Sunday (7 p.m. on ESPN2). But before either of those games, Georgetown battle Cincinnati on Saturday (noon on MASN).

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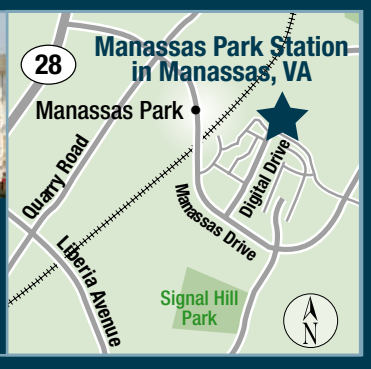

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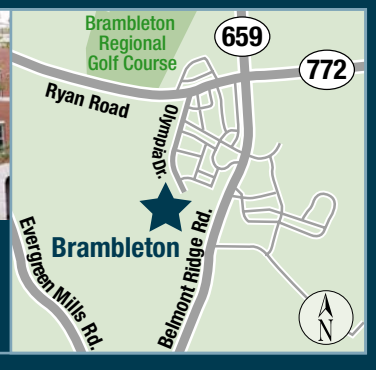

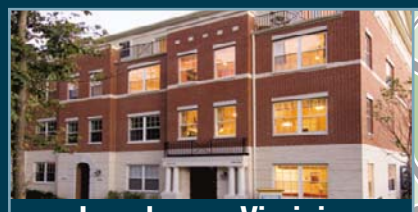

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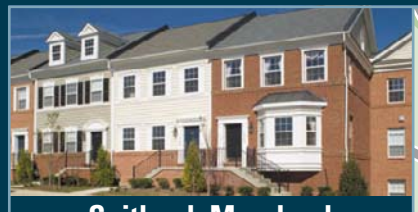

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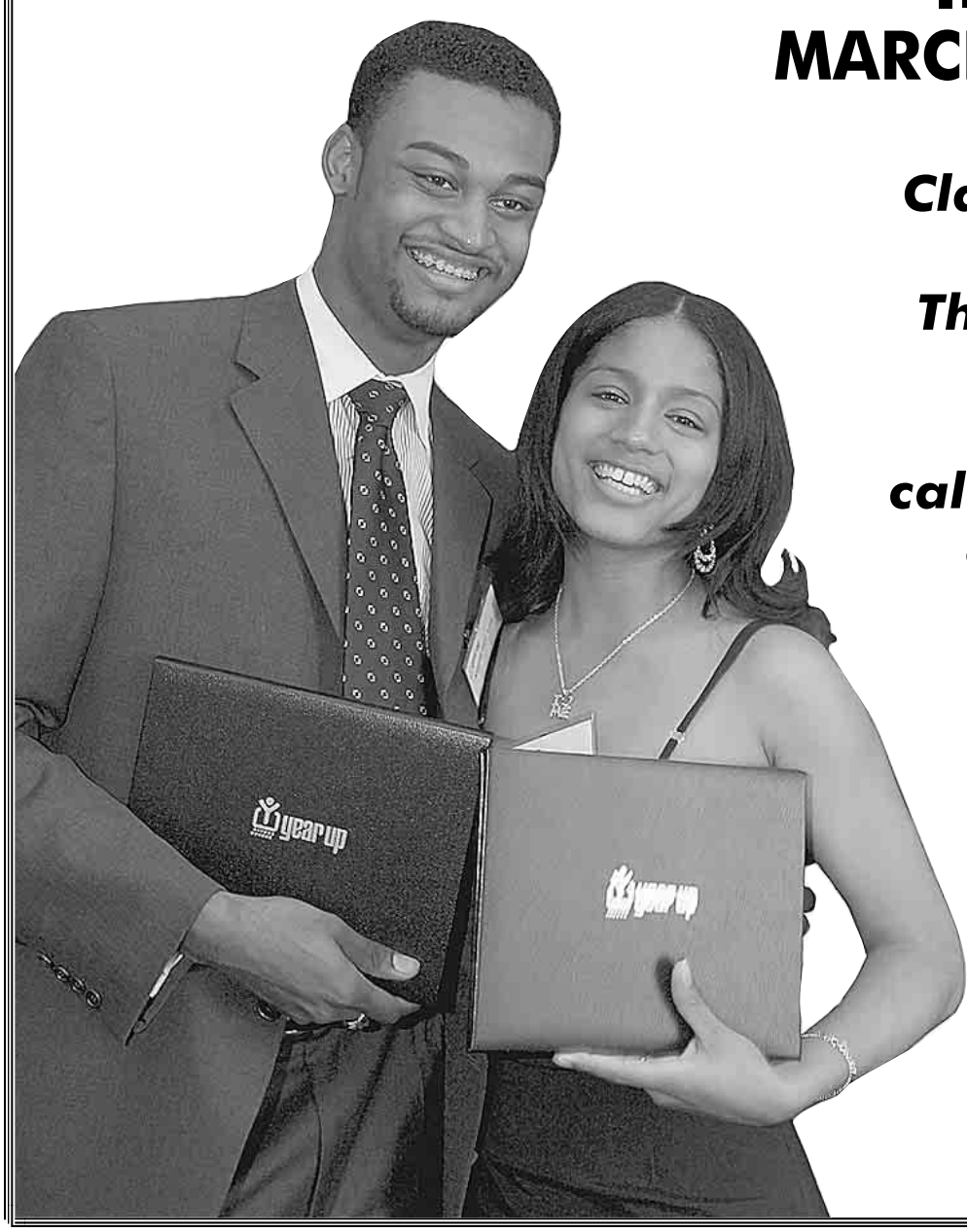
INTERVIEWING FOR MARCH 5, 2007 ENROLLMENT



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2007: The Year You Could Make a Million Dollars in Real Estate

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With low interest rates and soaring appreciation, now is the time you could be my next real estate millionaire — perhaps even a multimillionaire. Even if you're stone-cold broke right now, you can still become richer than most Americans will ever be. And before you even realize it, you could be living the life you've always wanted… the life you and your family deserve.

Years ago, when I invented the now world-famous "Nothing Down" real estate system, people thought it simply couldn't be done... Buying real estate without investing a dime of your own money! But, I have proven it can be done, year after year, in all kinds of housing markets. And now the housing market in your very own neighborhood makes this one of the best times ever to put my strategies to work for you.

Perhaps you've seen me on TV — or perhaps you've read one of my best-selling books. I've shown tens of thousands that just about anyone can make a fortune in real estate. But I have to tell you, in all my years of showing people how to create wealth through real estate, I believe it's never been as easy as it is today. Plus, I believe you can make more money now in real estate than ever before. And you can do it quicker.

The profit floodgates have truly opened for so many of my students. I believe you too can take advantage of all the lasting wealth that real estate can provide. And I'd like to tell you how in my updated workshop, *Creating Wealth with Real Estate®.*

SAN FRANCISCO

Challenge #1: Find fast wealth in any city, town, or neighborhood

When I first developed my revolutionary system for buying real estate, I very publicly challenged the media to… "Send me to any city in America. Take away my wallet. Give me $100 for living expenses. In 72 hours, I'll buy an excellent piece of property, using none of my own money." I would have only my new system for buying real estate.

DONE

I didn't buy just one property. I bought four!
The *Los Angeles Times* took me up on my gutsy challenge. In just 57 hours, I had taken title to not one, but to four properties — adding $722,000 in assets to my real estate portfolio. That's the equivalent of more than $10,000 an hour.

ST. LOUIS

Challenge #2: Take someone from unemployed to over $100,000 in equity

No better example of "ANYBODY CAN DO THIS" exists than when I made another major public challenge. As you might be able to guess, I'm not shy about telling others how my system works. So I declared… "Send me to any unemployment line in America. Let me select someone that is broke, out of work, and discouraged. In two days' time, I'll teach my strategies for Creating Wealth. In 90 days, that person will be back on his/her feet with $5,000 in the bank."

DONE

It was in St. Louis, Mo., where I pulled a couple out of the unemployment line. Within 90 days, these first-timers earned more than $5,000 in cash. But that was just the beginning... Within the next 12 months, they garnered more than $100,000. Think of how an extra $100,000 or more could change your life and improve your family's future.

NEW YORK

Challenge #3: Prove anyone can do it

I've become famous as America's leading expert on purchasing real estate with no money down. I've been interviewed in newspaper and on radio and TV. In fact, Regis Philbin challenged me on the spot to prove my system worked for anyone. I selected a young woman right out of Regis' studio audience and guided this first-timer to earning more than $20,000 in 90 days. And now, I'd like to pull you out of your chair and invite you to discover why my powerful and internationally acclaimed *Creating Wealth with Real Estate®* program can be your path to substantial wealth.

DONE

Your turn to succeed.
Can you become a millionaire? Dozens of my students have. At the FREE preview of my workshop, you'll see real-life examples of how I've helped people make money right away.

Challenge #4: Make you my next millionaire! STARTS NOW!

I've proved time and again that my system can work just about anywhere, anytime, and for just about anyone — even people who are flat broke. Now, I'd like to prove it can work for you.

In fact, my big mouth could make you a millionaire. That's because I've challenged myself to create millionaires all across America. Yup, I went right for the "M" word: millionaire. Raised a few eyebrows with that one. But remember, you don't need money in the bank to buy real estate. You don't even need good credit. All you need is my *Creating Wealth with Real Estate®* system and the personal gumption to go out and apply it.

Now it's your turn to take a step toward real wealth

The wealth is out there. I will show you how it's possible to find it and grab it. Take a life-changing step toward financial independence for yourself and your family today. The road (it's more of a superhighway actually) to millionaire status begins right here. Right now, my goal is to create millionaires all across the country. And I'd like to count you among them. There's no telling when my FREE workshop will be back in your area, because it's simply impossible for me to bring my famous workshop to every city. Grab this unique opportunity to discover hidden wealth opportunities in real estate.

Bring someone you care about

If you have a friend or family member who wants to increase their wealth, bring them to this FREE event. I believe there's never been a better time to invest in real estate than right now.

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— John (Chuck) Neuschafer, Georgia

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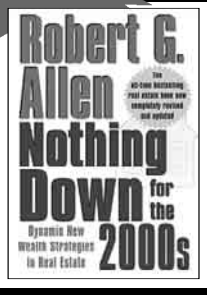

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A Part of the Discussion

Wizards are relevant in the NBA for the first time in decades

WIZARDS | You may need to squint to see them.

Five banners hang from the rafters of Verizon Center, representing the major accomplishments in Wizards history.

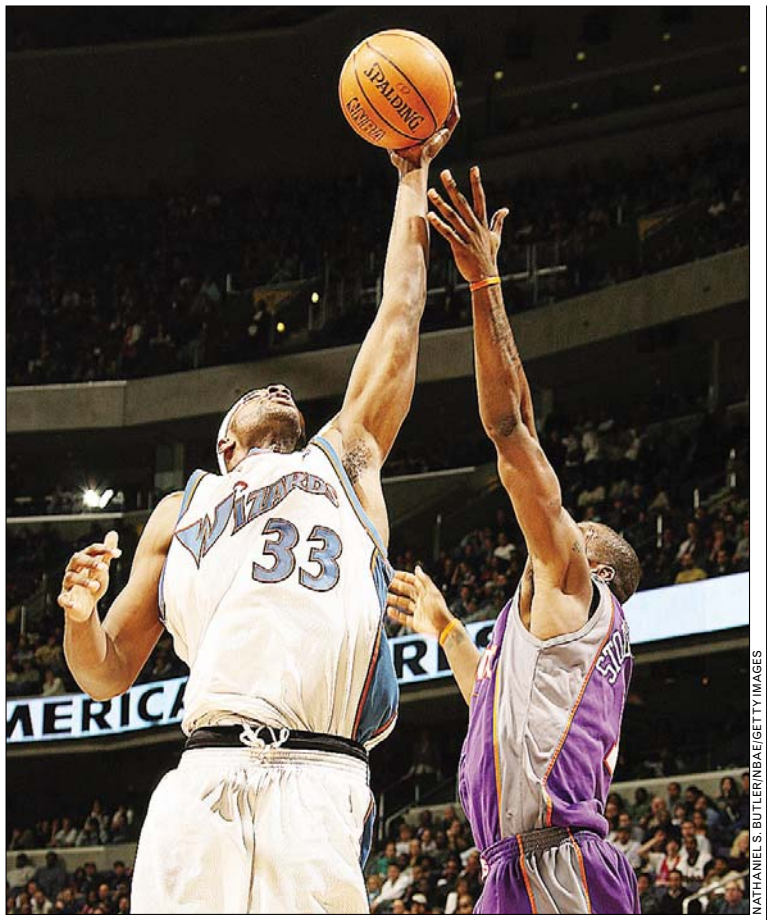
Of course, they were all earned as the Bullets, back before the team even thought about taking over downtown D.C.

One week before the Super Bowl, Washington's collective sports mind was far away from the Redskins, taking refuge from the weather inside Verizon Center to watch the then-Eastern Conference-leading Wizards get lit up by Phoenix.

"I don't know if it's a benchmark game or not," head coach Eddie Jordan said before Wednesday's game. "It's an exciting game for the fans and everyone else. … It's a little extra [motivation]. You're playing one of the top teams in the NBA. You know what can happen if you're not ready to play: You can get your 'you know what' handed to you."

Yeah, about that …

Tuesday's overwhelming loss put a damper on what had been a strong recent run that included a Dec. 22 victory over the Suns. It also broke Washington's 10-game home winning streak and pushed the Wizards down to second place in the Eastern Conference behind the Detroit Pistons.



NATHANIEL S. BUTLER/NBAE/GETTY IMAGES

UP IN THE AIR: Center Brendan Haywood, left, goes for a rebound against the Suns' Amare Stoudemire during Washington's 127-105 loss to Phoenix Tuesday.

Washington (24-17) has played at a consistently-high level since early December. Still, there's plenty of time for young teams like Orlando (23-20 after getting ripped Dallas on Wednesday) and Miami to make moves in the Southeast Division. In fact, entering Tuesday night's game, no team in the Eastern Conference was further back than 10 games out of the No. 1 seed.

Still, the Wizards understand they're in rare territory.

"We have a very quiet confidence. We understand what we can achieve," Wizards guard Antonio Daniels said. "Home-court advantage is very important come playoff time … but right now we can't afford to be concerned with it."

Washington has earned the No. 5 seed in the East each the last two years, giving their opponent home court in all three postseason series during that stretch.

The Wizards have a chance to take back first place as they kick off the second half of their season tonight at conference-leading Pistons (24-16)

"[The loss to Phoenix] lets you know we have some work to get done," Wizards forward Antawn Jamison said." ERIC BRANDNER

Green Is Hoyas' Go-To Guy

Georgetown's junior forward will do it all to get his team a win

HOYAS HOOPS | See Jeff Green grab a rebound. See Jeff Green block a shot. See Jeff Green get an assist. See Jeff Green score. See … well, you get the point.

Of all the Georgetown Hoyas, the 6-foot-9 forward from Hyattsville, Md., is probably the most versatile.

Some days, Green controls a game by scoring — as he did Wednesday, scoring a team-high 19 points in the Hoyas' 66-52 victory over DePaul. Others, he'll dominate the glass. And always, he's sure to offer at least one eye-popping assist.

JONATHAN NEWTON / TWP

Jeff Green is averaging 11.6 points and 3.6 assists per game this season.

The last talent has given Green a reputation for being an unselfish player, sometimes even too unselfish. It turns out that's one criticism he can live with.

"For me, I'd rather dish an assist than score," the junior said. "I like doing the little things."

Those aren't just words, either. In each year at Georgetown, Green's scoring average has dropped — from 13.1 as a freshman to 11.9 last year and 11.6 midway through this season. Meanwhile, his assists have jumped from 2.9 to 3.6 per game.

"When you're scoring, it doesn't mean you are winning. Having an all-around game is important," philosophized Green, who has still found a way to become the 37th Hoya to surpass the 1,000-point mark for his career.

Winning is something the Hoyas (14-5, 4-2) have been doing plenty of lately. Georgetown has taken advantage of a softer part of its Big East schedule to build a three-game winning streak going into Saturday's home game against Cincinnati.

If the Hoyas — now tied for third in the Big East — are to ride this momentum to the success predicted earlier this season, it will be Green leading the way, whether he is passing, rebounding or even, begrudgingly, scoring.

"A lot of people put value on scoring," said coach John Thompson III. "Jeff Green is so talented; his value goes above and beyond whatever his point total is." MATT SWENSON (EXPRESS)

Swengali

FOOTBALL | BY MATT SWENSON

The Hall Calls For Art Monk

ART MONK NEVER SPOKE MUCH. He didn't have to.

What else is there to say when you retire with the most catches in NFL history?

Yet it's his understated personality that has kept the Redskins all-time great out of the NFL Hall of Fame.

Voters are media members, some of whom possibly hold a grudge because he didn't throw a great quote their way.

Otherwise, there is little rationale for keeping Monk waiting seven years after he became eligible for enshrinement.

All he even did was catch 940 balls (now sixth-best all-time) for 12,721 yards (11th-best) and 68 touchdowns, set the record — now second to Jerry Rice — for consecutive games (183) with at least one catch, make the NFL's all-1980s team and be an integral part of three Super Bowl champion teams.

> There is little rationale for keeping Monk waiting seven years … for enshrinement.

All this in the era when teams still ran first and passed second.

There is hope, though. Sports Illustrated's Peter King, who seemingly made it his personal mission to keep Monk out of Canton, wrote late last year that The Washington Post's Len Shapiro, another Hall-of-Fame voter, has converted him.

Better late than never, right?

With King out of the way, the path should be clear for Monk's long overdue honor.

And as Redskins know, if Monk is open, he'll always make the big catch.

@ | To reach Matt Swenson, e-mail matt.swenson@readexpress.com

UMD-UNC Is Hot Ticket

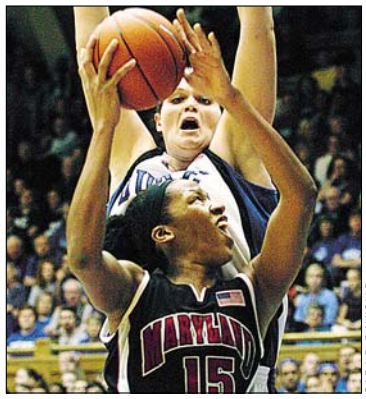
At sold-out Comcast, Terps women take on second-ranked Heels

TERPS HOOPS | It's the hottest ticket around this weekend and you can't have one. If you haven't secured your seat for Sunday's game between Maryland and North Carolina, you had better call your local scalper. Otherwise, you're out of luck. It's sold out.

And here's the thing: The 17,950 fans filling the Comcast Center won't be there to watch Gary Williams or Roy Williams pace the sideline. Not for D.J. Strawberry or Tyler Hansbrough.

They will be there for the women — Maryland's Crystal Langhorne, Carolina's Erlana Larkins, and all the rest.

The No. 3 Terrapins and the No. 2 Tar Heels will set an ACC attendance record, the first sell out for a women's team at Comcast. Just months removed from a national championship, the Terrapins already have proved that the women's game is no longer a peripheral sport in College Park. Sunday, they'll be out to prove that a second national title is achievable.



SARA D. DAVIS/AP

Laura Harper and the Maryland Terps were beaten handily by Duke on Jan. 13.

Just the slightest bit of doubt was cast two weeks ago when Maryland visited Duke and was thoroughly outplayed in a similarly raucous environment, losing by 19 and surrendering the No. 1 ranking they'd held since the season began.

"It was a tremendous atmosphere, a wonderful crowd, a sold-out atmosphere. And they really took it to us," Maryland coach Brenda Frese said.

Maryland (20-1, 4-1 in the ACC) won its next two games with minimal drama leading up to Thursday night's trip to Clemson. Frese cited defense and toughness — mental and physical — as areas in need of fine-tuning after the Duke loss.

"The goal hasn't changed," she said. "The motivation is the fact is they all count the same."

Sunday's game against UNC (22-0, 6-0) will be just that, one game in more than two dozen. It is not a must-win. But it is an ample barometer, allowing the Terps to measure where they are against where they want to be. And they want to be on top — but more so in March than January. DEREK TURNER

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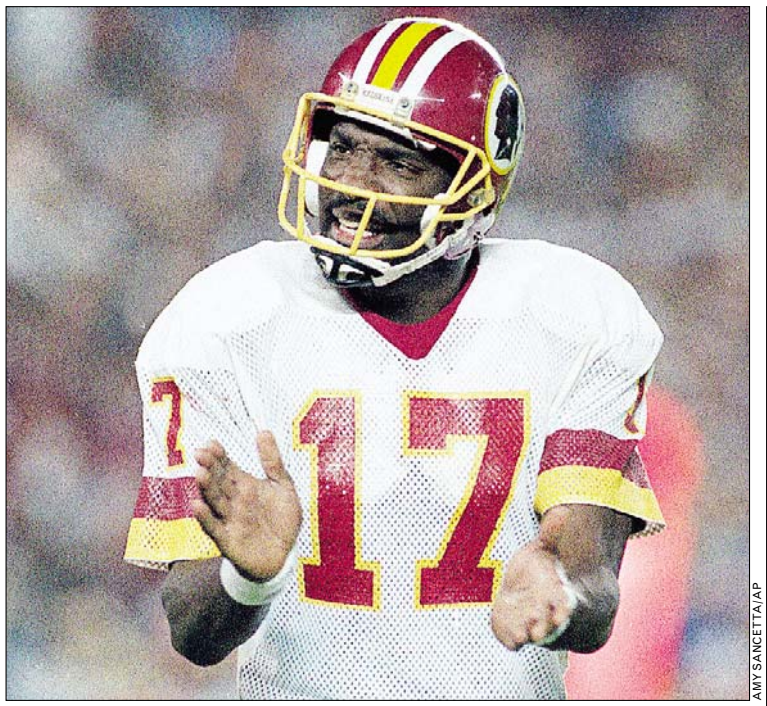
Race Is Super Sideshow

Like in 1986, football talk takes a backseat to skin color this year

NFL | When Doug Williams became the first black quarterback to start a Super Bowl 19 years ago, the buildup to the game between his Washington Redskins and the Denver Broncos was "all Williams all the time."

Including a question that has always been considered No. 1 on the list of wacky Super Bowl queries and has generated a controversy of its own: "How long have you been a black quarterback?"

The race angle will be back twofold next week as close friends Tony Dungy of Indianapolis and Lovie Smith of Chicago become the first black coaches in the Super Bowl. That theme overshadows all others, including Peyton Manning's pursuit of his first Super Bowl ring and Dungy's quest for validation as one of the best coaches of the last decade.



AMY SANCETTA/AP

Super Bowl MVP Doug Williams said he remembers the talk leading up to the 1986 game as being entirely about "me, a black quarterback, against the great John Elway."

It's likely the coaches will be asked more about their skin color than about football. And given the 24/7 nature of news these days, the Dungy-Smith matchup could be the biggest Super Bowl sideshow since Williams' trailblazing appearance, one in which he led the Redskins to a 42-10 victory.

"Nobody said the Washington Redskins against the Denver Broncos, which is what it really was," says Williams. "It was me, a black quarterback, against the great John Elway."

This week will be more than a sideshow. It will be a significant event that demonstrates there is still a lot to be discussed about race relations in the NFL.

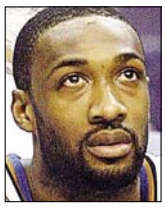
Indianapolis defensive tackle Anthony McFarland spoke for many of the black players when he noted, "It shows that for Tony and Lovie to come this far that there are at least some organizations that have confidence that black men can be head coaches."

Williams agrees, saying the victories by the two black coaches, along with the hiring of Jerry Reese as New York Giants general manager and Mike Tomlin as Pittsburgh's coach, made last week the most significant for blacks in NFL history. (AP)

Voting Surge Makes Arenas All-Star Starter

NBA | Gilbert Arenas pulled out another late victory.

The Washington star surged past Vince Carter in the final days of All-Star voting to claim the second Eastern Conference guard spot by 3,010 votes Thursday, the fourth-closest margin for a starting spot.



Arenas

Arenas was 214,460 votes behind Carter two weeks ago, but finished with 1,454,166 to Carter's 1,451,156.

"It is an unbelievable feeling," Arenas said. "Two years ago, I was voting myself in for the game. Now fans are voting me in, and I'm going to do what they are looking for. I've got something to give back to the fans during All-Star weekend."

Arenas will team up with LeBron James, who led all players with more than 2.5 million votes, 14-time selection Shaquille O'Neal, Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh. (AP)

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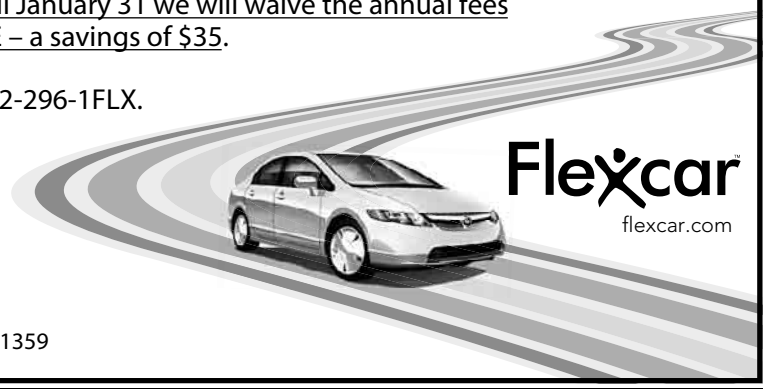

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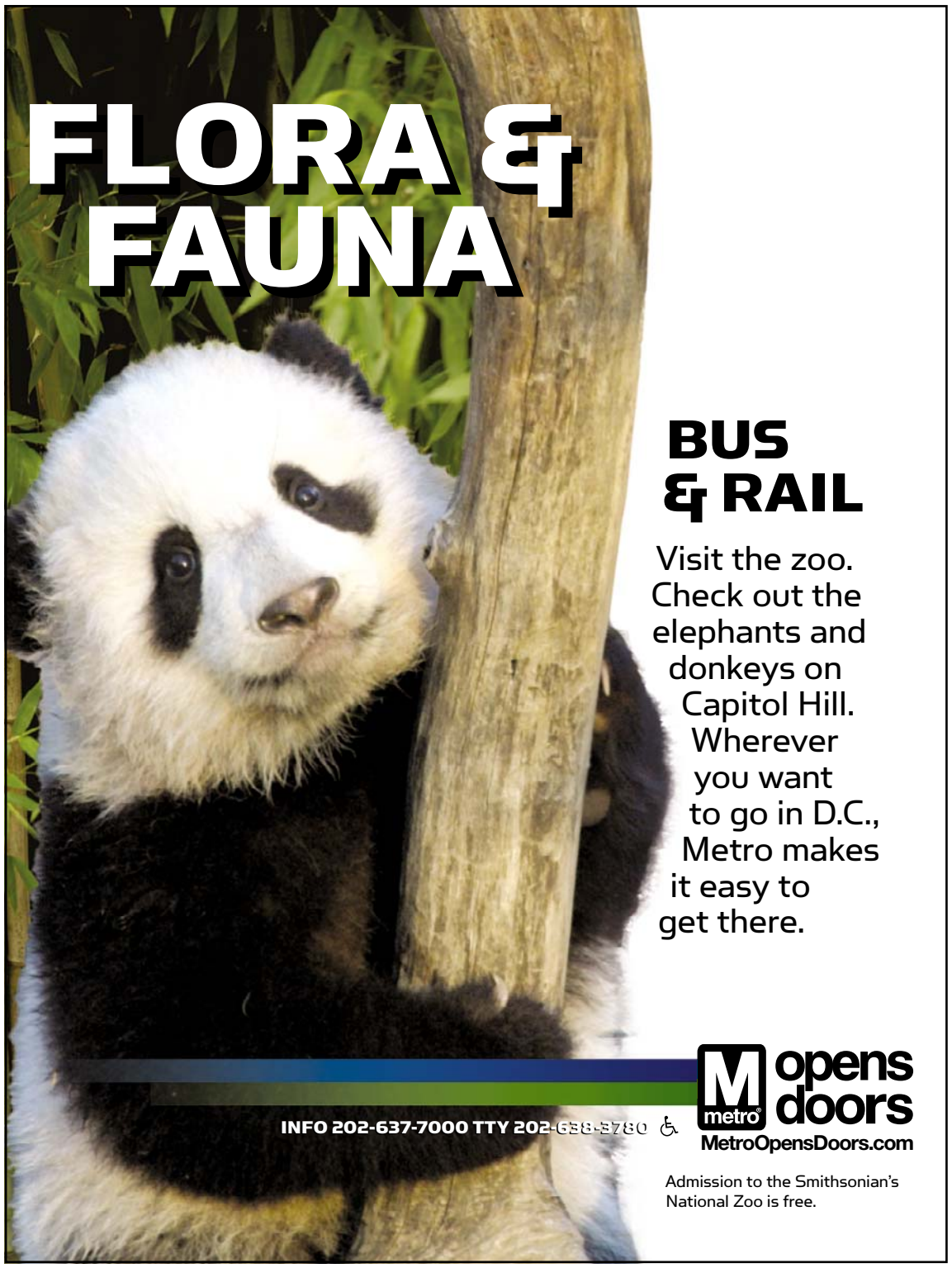


Weekend | Sports

VINCENT THIAN/AP

Top-ranked Roger Federer celebrates beating Andy Roddick handily in the semifinal of the Australian Open. Federer hasn't lost a set throughout the tournament.

Total Domination At Australian Open

Even Federer surprised with ease of win over Roddick to reach final

TENNIS | Even top-ranked Roger Federer was stunned by his domination of Andy Roddick.

After looking vulnerable in some of his earlier matches, Federer was virtually untouchable as he beat sixth-seeded Roddick 6-4, 6-0, 6-2 Thursday at the Australian Open to reach his seventh consecutive Grand Slam final, tying a record set by Jack Crawford in 1934.

"This was definitely one of my best matches I ever played," said Federer, who is seeking his 10th major title. "I had one of these days when everything just worked. I was unbeatable. It's just unreal. I was playing out of my mind. I am shocked myself.

Federer will play the winner of Friday's semifinal between 10th-seeded Fernando Gonzalez and No. 12 Tommy Haas.

Roddick had hoped that his net-charging tactics, implemented by new coach Jimmy Connors after Wimbledon last year, would help him close the gap with Federer.

But Federer made sure that didn't happen.

Federer ran off 11 games in a row from serving at 3-4 in the first set. He blunted Roddick's powerful serve and whipped passing shots seemingly at will, leaving Roddick staring in disbelief.

Roddick won only nine of his 31 net approaches and had only 11 winners. Federer had 10 aces, 45 winners and just 12 unforced errors.

On the women's side Serena Williams reached her first Grand Slam final in two years by beating Nicole Vaidisova.

Standing in her way of an eighth Grand Slam title is top-seeded Maria Sharapova. PAUL ALEXANDER (AP)

Another Soccer Star On the Move?

SOCCER | AC Milan made Real Madrid an offer for Ronaldo, a move that would return the Brazilian soccer star to the city where he spent five years with rival Inter Milan.

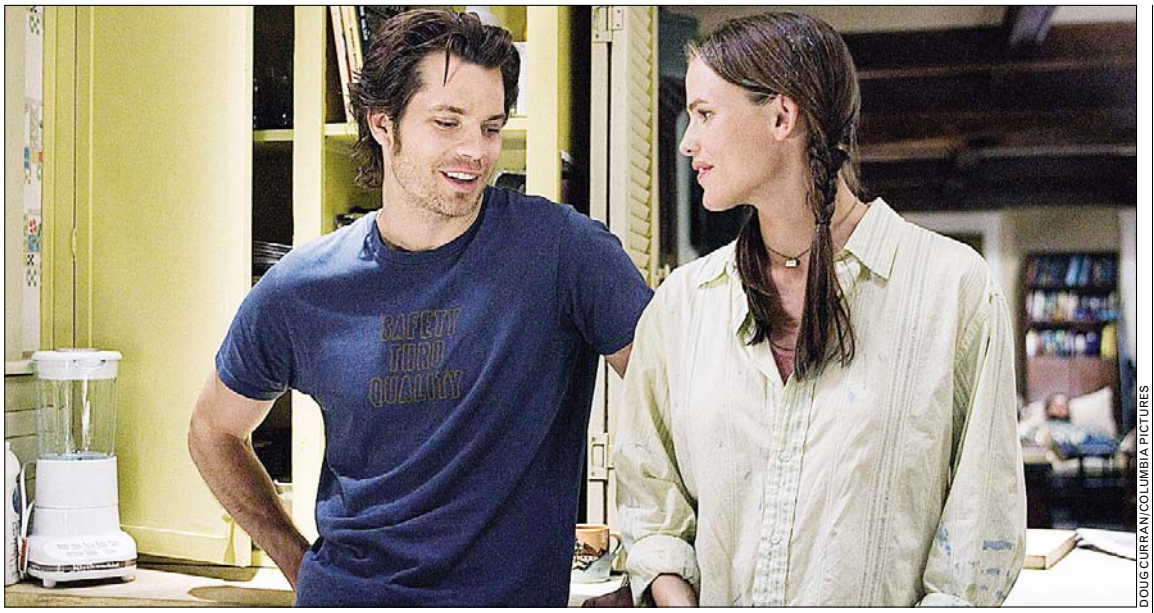
Ronaldo has six days remaining in the January transfer window to switch teams. Otherwise, he will have to stay at Madrid at least until the end of the season.

Ronaldo joined Madrid in 2002, winning the Spanish league at the end of his first season — his last major title. ANDREW ROBERTS (AP)

NIGHTLIFE AGENDA

Saturday Soul: Alison Crockett is from D.C. originally, but she's made a name for herself in the international house and dance scenes. | 27

Entertainment Weekend



DOUG CURRAN/COLUMBIA PICTURES

CASTING HER LINE IN THE WATER: Jennifer Garner fishes for a new man in the uneven chick flick "Catch and Release."

It's a Little Fishy

'Catch and Release' flip-flops between comedy and drama

FILM | Writer Susannah Grant, directing for the first time with "Catch and Release," seems to be aiming for the same kind of meaty chick flick she's come up with before in "28 Days," "Erin Brockovich" and "In Her Shoes."

But this fish-themed romance flops wildly all over the place — from heavy poignant moments to slapsticky comedy, with a healthy dose of soapy melodrama in between.

Jennifer Garner stars as Gray, a young woman whose fiance, Grady, dies in a boating accident on the eve of their wedding. The florists and caterers arrive and end up serving a funeral instead; the device puts you on edge from the start.

Financial problems force her to move into the cluttered home in laid-back Boulder, Colo., that Grady shared with Dennis (Sam Jaeger), his partner in a fly-fishing business, and Sam (Kevin Smith), the wisecracking pal who likes to regurgitate quotes that appear on his tea company's boxes.

But while she's there, and still grieving, Gray learns all kinds of things about the man she loved that she never knew before: He was secretly wealthy and had about $1 million in his bank account, he cheated on her with a woman in Los Angeles and is the father of her young son.

All of this makes her realize that she never really knew him — or herself, for that matter.

Soon the mom, a dippy massage therapist named Maureen (Juliette Lewis) who is the opposite of the wholesome Gray, comes teetering into town in her high heels and micro-miniskirt with the destructive little moppet (Joshua Friesen) in tow. All of Grady's inordinately open-hearted friends not only let her stay, but they also eat the cleansing organic dinner she prepares for them, which provides an opportunity for Gray to loosen up for once and make some confessions of her own.

In the midst of all this, there's an out-of-nowhere suicide attempt and a couple of ugly confrontations with Grady's mother (Fiona Shaw), who wants the family's heirloom engagement ring back.

At the same time, Gray falls in love with one of Grady's buddies, a bad-boy TV director named Fritz (Timothy Olyphant), and begins a secret relationship with him. His sly good looks make it easy to accept Olyphant as a scheming womanizer, but then Fritz turns into a sweetheart, which seems abruptly out of place.

Not to mention that it's implausible that she'd fall for this person, out of everyone in the world, this quickly. It seems crass — and, if you'll pardon the pun, a little fishy. CHRISTY LEMIRE (AP)

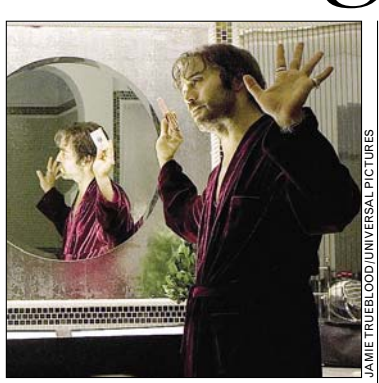
A Lock, Stock Stinking Movie

Dark 'Smoking Aces' tries too hard to be freakish and sadistic

FILM | "Smokin' Aces" is so derivative of Guy Ritchie's bloody, hyperkinetic style of ensemble crime flick, this could have been called "Lock, Stock and Two Smokin' Aces."

Writer-director Joe Carnahan (whose previous films include the vastly superior, intelligent "Narc") also channels Quentin Tarantino and Tony Scott with his hip dialogue and high body count. Which is a shame, because Carnahan clearly has the capability of establishing a voice of his own.

But amid all the freakish and sadistic hit men (and women) converging on Lake Tahoe for the $1 million prize to assassinate magician Buddy "Aces" Israel, it's impossible to care about or root for a single one of them. They're all such self-consciously 2-D villains — and that especially includes Israel himself, played by Jeremy Piven with an obnoxious mix of coked-up bravado and bleary-eyed paranoia.



JAMIE TRUEBLOOD/UNIVERSAL PICTURES

"I swear, man, I only know how to play obnoxious, over-the-top characters."

Carnahan veers wildly between dark comedy and over-the-top violence but never quite gets the tone right. (He does get a couple of good scenes out of Alicia Keys and Jason Bateman, though.)

Ray Liotta, Ryan Reynolds, Ben Affleck, Taraji P. Henson and Andy Garcia are among the overly large cast. CHRISTY LEMIRE (AP)

Got Plans?

FOR COMPLETE WEEKEND LISTINGS SEE WASHINGTONPOST.COM/ENTERTAINMENT

I am looking for an original idea for my typical date night with my boyfriend this Saturday. No movies, please! What are some good romantic (and low-budget) restaurants in the area? Any other ideas for a cold winter weekend?

It depends on your notion of romance. Mine is leaning in over hot, ethnic food, so my first pick would be Etete. You have to be comfortable enough to let him see you stuff your face with injera, but I love sharing a large platter of spicy morsels. If you like a little entertainment, zip around the corner for the musical stylings at Dukem.

➜ *Etete, 1942 9th St. NW; 202-232-7600. (Shaw-Howard University)*

➜ *Dukem, 1114-1118 U St. NW; 202-667-8735. (U St.-Cardozo)*

CHRIS COMBS/FTWP

Get hot and spicy with your date at the fabulous Ethiopian restaurant Etete.

I'm looking for a place to get a nice haircut and straight-razor shave. Either a classic barbershop or a decently priced salon in the District that caters to men.

The Grooming Lounge would be just what you're looking for. It's a men's grooming products shop combined with a classic barbershop/spa. It has locations around the area, including the District.

➜ *The Grooming Lounge, 1745 L St. NW; 202-466-8900. (Farragut North, Farragut West)*

The Going Out Gurus think you should get out more. Join the discussion Thursdays at 1 p.m. | **washingtonpost.com/liveonline**

Bright Golden Years

Peter O'Toole can still down the drinks — and act with the best

GAMER | Peter O'Toole has a hangover. And he's relishing it.

Yes, he's still in the game, on screen and off. That's why he initially dismissed the idea of accepting an honorary Academy Award four years ago — and why he received his eighth best-actor Oscar nomination this week for his performance in "Venus."

But on this morning, he's tucking into a bowl of soup. "Unfortunately, some very mischievous and thoughtless New York friends insisted that I drink a little bit too much last night," he explains. "As you can imagine, I couldn't disappoint them."

It's not like the old days, though, when he would carouse with fellow world-class party animals Richard Burton, Richard Harris and Peter Finch. He imbibed a "modest" amount of red wine and whiskey the night before.

In his younger days, he preferred voluminous amounts of whiskey straight. "Now I'm afraid I have a pint of water with an eyedropper of whiskey," he says, laughing thunderously.

Back then, moviegoers were intoxicated, too, with his performance in the title role of David Lean's 1962 epic "Lawrence of Arabia" — and his breathtaking blond, blue-eyed visage. (At a premiere party, Noel Coward told him: "If you'd been any prettier, it would have been 'Florence of Arabia.'")

Still, he doesn't miss being younger.

"I quite like being old. I've said this before and I'll repeat it: Yes, I'm 74 years old, but in here," he says, pointing to his temple, "quite a lot of the time and in many instances, I'm 21. ... I'm getting more and more used to my limitations, and enjoying them. ... I quite enjoyed the hangover this morning."

O'Toole certainly knows the feeling of being up for an Oscar. Until Tuesday, the star had been tied with his late chum Burton for futility in acting nominations, at zero-for-seven.

In "Venus," he plays Maurice, a modestly successful actor who's reduced to taking roles as dying old men and feeble royals. Off-screen, Maurice calls himself a "scientist of the female heart" who's undeterred by his infirmities, including prostate problems and impotence. So when a close actor-friend has his grandniece (played by newcomer Jodie Whittaker) come to care for him, Maurice ends up squiring her around. "Venus" supplies a rare sensitive depiction of how people in their twilight years can feel sadly marginalized.

O'Toole says he didn't want to sound pompous when he initially chafed at getting a lifetime achievement Oscar. "But the truth is, I can't and don't want to be an honorary any bloody thing. ... Because I still am in the bloody game. And I'm going to go on being in the game."

DOUGLAS J. ROWE (AP)

NICOLA DOVE/MIRAMAX

MATURE LOVE: Oscar-nominated Peter O'Toole and actress Jodie Whittaker play characters who form an unlikely bond in "Venus."

'The Good' Is the Great

Blur's Damon Albarn returns with a global new band and CD

MUSIC | "Stroppy little island full of mixed up people." That's how Damon Albarn memorably sums up England in "The Good, the Bad & the Queen" (Virgin), the latest chapter of his ongoing chronicle of his homeland's heart and soul.

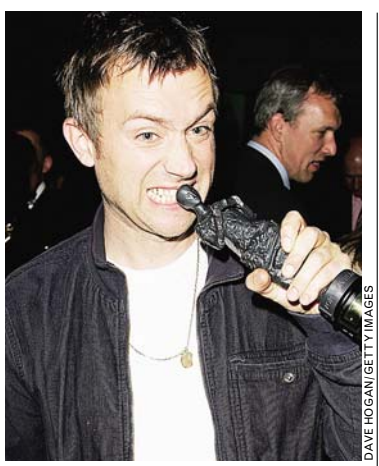
That's been his mission with Blur. His other projects, most notably the "Mali Music" album and the Gorillaz, had a global perspective that now broadens and invigorates his music as he turns his focus back to Britain.

In The Good, the Bad & the Queen, also the name of his new group, the singer is accompanied by former Clash bassist Paul Simonon, Verve guitarist Simon Tong and Nigerian drummer Tony Allen, and produced by his Gorillaz studio collaborator, Danger Mouse.

They sound like a seasoned team, an understated unit in which everything contributes to enhancing the moods of Albarn's songs. With equal emphasis on groove and hook, and given an experimental spin by the production, they craft a catchy form of art-rock.

Those moods are melancholy, downbeat and yearning as Albarn presents concise images of a country gripped by tension and uncertainty.

War is the recurring motif, in memories of earlier, clearer ones and encounters with the more ambiguous ones that pervade modern life — not just in England, but all over this island Earth. RICHARD CROMELIN (LOS ANGELES TIMES)



DAVE HOGAN/GETTY IMAGES

WAR — WHAT'S IT GOOD FOR? Inspiring protest music by Damon Albarn.

President Beats 'Idol' With Ease

IDOL KILLER | For one night, President Bush drew more TV viewers than "American Idol." An estimated 45.5 million people watched the president deliver his State of the Union policy speech before Congress Tuesday night, according to Nielsen Media Research. The speech was televised on nine different TV networks.

The Fox network's "American Idol," which aired right before the president in most of the country, was seen by 32.6 million people.

While "Idol" and Bush have been targeted by plenty of criticism, their Nielsen ratings are looking up. Bush's speech was seen by 9 percent more people than in 2006, while the "American Idol" viewership was up 8 percent over its pre-State of the Union broadcast last year.

More people watched Bush speak on NBC, with 9.33 million viewers. Fox had 8.4 million, CBS 8 million and ABC 7 million. On cable, Fox News Channel's coverage of the speech was seen by 4.6 million people, CNN had 2.4 million and MSNBC had 1.6 million. (AP)

"More people love me — or maybe fear me — than they do Simon Cowell."

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Entertainment | Weekend

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PLEASED TO MEET ME — AND YOU: Washington Social Club gets to know one another.

Nightlife Agenda

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO TONIGHT? BY FRITZ HAHN, RHOME ANDERSON AND DAVID MALITZ

FRIDAY

It sounds odd to say this about a band with just a single album to its name, but the members of **WASHINGTON SOCIAL CLUB** have become elder statesmen in the local indie music scene. The band is currently working on a follow-up to its 2004 debut, "Catching Looks," and based on demo versions of songs posted on its Web site, fans of the group's bouncy brand of power pop will find plenty to like. WSC's live shows are always a good time, and those people who complain about folks not dancing at shows probably won't have too much to complain about tonight at the Black Cat. These United States and Let's French, two bands that have come on the scene in the time since WSC's first album, get things started for yet another all-local bill on the main stage.

Reggaeton was the inescapable beat of 2005, blasting from car stereos and radios all over town. Even gringos with high school Spanish (like us) couldn't resist nodding heads. Daddy Yankee has grabbed most of the headlines in the English-language press, but we have to say we're impressed with the skills of **HECTOR EL FATHER**, the Puerto Rican MC and producer formerly known as Hector El Bambino. Hector has skills on and off the mike. He's won a Latin Billboard award for producing the hit "Mayor Que Yo," inked a deal with Jay-Z's Roc La Familia label that led to the Jay-co-produced U.S. release "Rompe Discotecas," and even designed a shoe for Reebok's Sean Carter Collection. Last year, Hector was a featured act on the Reggaeton Spring Bling event at the Patriot Center and then had a major summer show with Don Omar and Wisin y Yandel at the Verizon Center. It's a surprise to see him performing in the relatively cozy confines of H2O tonight, but it's a welcome chance to get up close and personal with reggaeton's hottest producer. Get on the guest list at H2Odc.com.

SATURDAY

ALISON CROCKETT is one of those artists whose voice stops you in your tracks even if the name doesn't immediately ring a bell. Fans of soulful dance and electronic music are sure to have at least one of her works on their iPod. Under the name Diva Blue, she laced vocals on some of the most enduring tunes by US3 and King Britt's Sylk 130 project. Then there's the stellar Diva Blue remix album, with selections from her solo catalog reworked by DJ Spinna, Mark de Clive-Lowe and others. Then there's a track record of more than a decade touring the international jazz circuit. Though Crockett's orbit takes her far, she occasionally returns home to Washington to perform. Her show at Ellington's on Eighth tonight is too good to pass up.

An extended version of "Nightlife Agenda" is always available at **www.washingtonpost.com/cityguide**

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Weekend | Entertainment

Now Playing

ALPHA DOG (R, 117 minutes) This movie tells the story of Jesse James Hollywood, here fictionalized as Johnny Truelove, who at 20 was one of the youngest men in history on the FBI's most wanted list. The movie suffers from an uncertain structure, but it boasts an extraordinary naturalism, not particularly flattering. The movie belongs to its youngsters, and it's a real eye-opener. (SH)

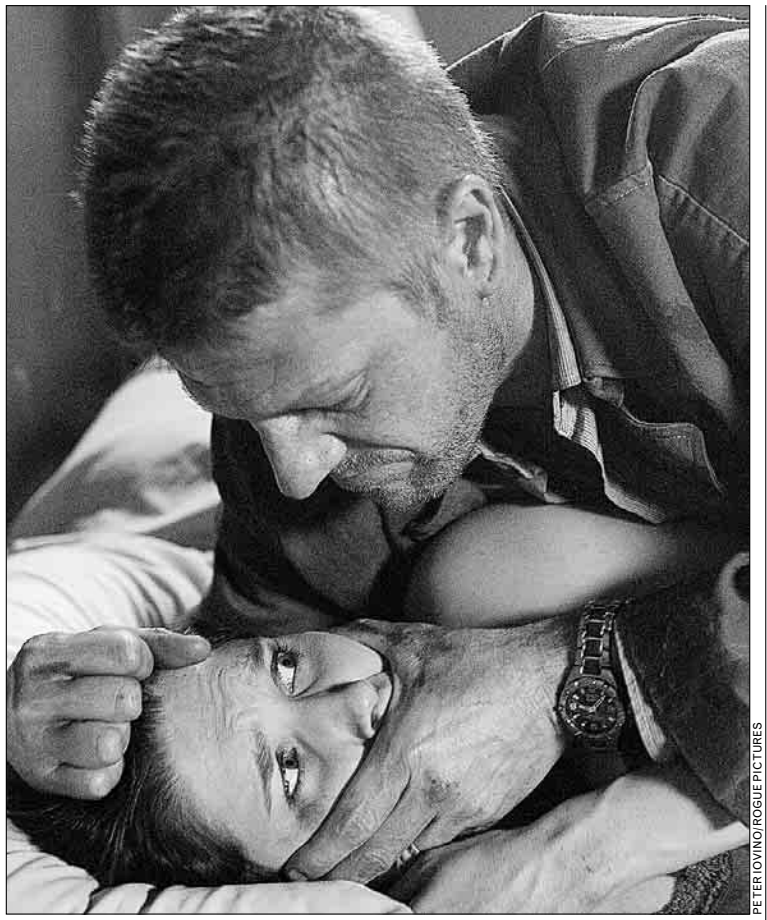
ARTHUR AND THE INVISIBLES (PG, 94 minutes) This CGI movie is based on the children's book "Arthur and the Minimoys." The precocious and imaginative Arthur minimizes himself to join the world of the almost microscopic Minimoys. The movie is easy to lightly enjoy, but it isn't quite so easy to love because French director Luc Besson has devoted more attention to technology and his visual schemes than to making a propulsive story. (DT)

BABEL (R, 142 minutes) Director Alejandro González Iñárritu and writer Guillermo Arriaga tell multiple stories in multiple locations around the globe. Each tale is completely compelling on its own, and Iñárritu also proves superb at working with amateur actors. Yet as sophisticated a piece of filmmaking as it is, it seems hamstrung by the banality at its center and it never assembles into a satisfying whole. (SH)

BLOOD DIAMOND (R, 125 minutes) Pounding action, pulse-quickening adventure and of-the-moment politics animate this mostly great thriller starring Leonardo DiCaprio. He plays a smuggler named who finds himself a mercenary middleman between rebels in Sierra Leone and European diamond merchants. Things get out of hand during the last half-hour, but the movie is a gem. (AH)

BORAT (R, 89 minutes) Borat, played with seamless disingenuousness by Sacha Baron Cohen, has come to America to make a feature-length documentary for the people of his home country. As Borat cuts his wide and occasionally vicious swath, no petard goes unhoisted. It's a spectacle that delivers squeals, howls or at least low-level chuckles. The movie is a perfect combination of slapstick and satire. (AH)

CASINO ROYALE (PG-13, 140 minutes) Reinventing James Bond as a kind of Navy SEAL with an attitude problem, this movie turns out to be cracking good entertainment. Daniel Craig kicks major maximus as a Bond who'd never use a computer where a punch will do. And he is seemingly the first Bond to actually bleed. Half an hour too long and with too many villains, the movie nevertheless proves you seldom go wrong if you make a movie that leaves you stirred, not shaken. (SH)



PETER IOVINO/ROGUE PICTURES

QUIET, OR I'LL MAKE YOU WATCH THIS MOVIE: "The Hitcher" quiets a critic.

CHARLOTTE'S WEB (G, 98 minutes) E.B. White's children's book starring Wilbur the curly-tailed runt, his human friend, Fern and spider Charlotte has been charming kids into bed forever. Those kids and their children can rest assured that the movie shares their reverence. The performers, at times, sound as if they're doing a casual read-through before the actual show — but their relaxed spirit is subtly satisfying. (DT)

CHILDREN OF MEN (R, 106 minutes) This audacious, sweeping, sobering and exhilarating film stars Clive Owen as a bureaucrat in 2027 London, the last outpost of the closest thing to civilization in a world gripped by pandemic infertility and a worldwide immigration crisis. When Owen's character, Theo, is pulled back into his activist past by his former lover, he embarks on an epic chase adventure in which the motivation is nothing less than the survival of the human race. (AH)

CODE NAME: THE CLEANER (PG-13, 84 minutes) In this by-the-numbers action comedy, stand-up comedian Cedric the Entertainer plays a humble janitor who awakes one day in a strange hotel room with a dead guy at his side; he's lost his memory and spends the rest of the movie trying to figure out why he's having flashbacks of being an elite spy and why the FBI is after him. There's absolutely nothing to recommend this movie. (AH)

CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER (R, 114 minutes) Zhang Yimou's film is a kind of

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feast, kitschy and grand all at once. The great Chow Yun Fat plays the Emperor Ping, home from the wars at last, eager to lose himself in the bosom of his family. Except that everyone is busy plotting against one another. The emperor's wife (Gong Li) has a grudge against him: He's slowly killing her with poison. The movie substitutes spectacle for emotional intimacy, and Chow has been better. But that all but concedes the film to Gong, who gives a grand, operatic performance. (SH)

THE DEPARTED (R, 149 minutes) A deranged wit runs through this film, which finds Martin Scorsese up to his same old tricks of exploring an American ethnic subculture with frequent detours into carnage and mayhem. Scorsese plumbs the colorful depths of the Irish mob in Boston. The movie crackles right along, stopping only for Scorsese's signature bursts of explosive violence. (AH)

DREAMGIRLS (PG-13, 131 minutes) "Dreamgirls" arrives with more than its share of baggage; the hit Broadway musical, which opened in 1981, is such a cherished icon that it's taken 25 years for it to be made into a movie. But even with Jennifer Hudson's triumphant arrival and an overall fizzy mood of singing, dancing, pop nostalgia and camp, "Dreamgirls" is an uneven crowd pleaser. (AH)

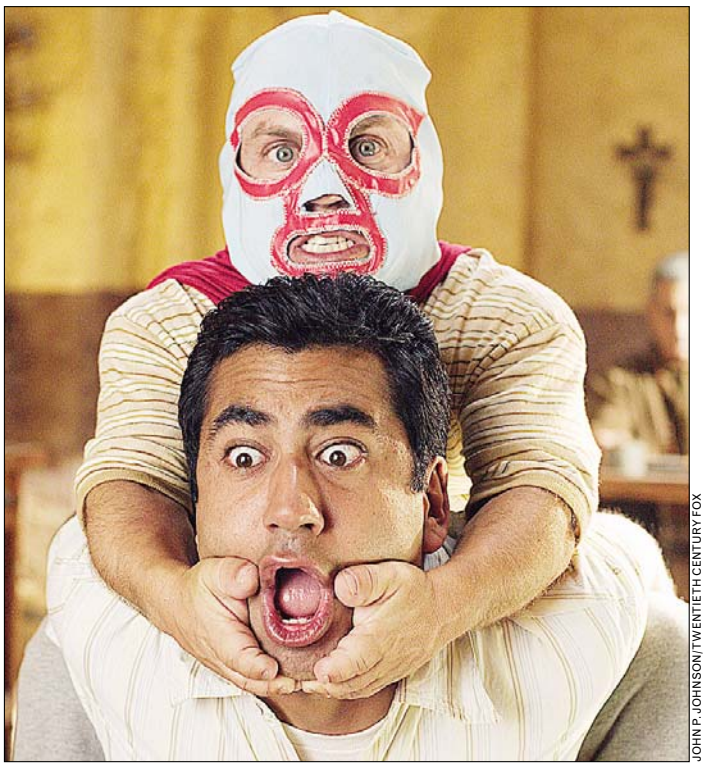
ERAGON (PG, 99 minutes) In the gorgeous middle earth that is Alagaesia, the evil Galbatorix (John Malkovich) has destroyed all the dragon riders and taken over. Meanwhile, a young beauty played dimly by Sienna Guillory escapes from his castle with the last dragon egg, which she manages to deliver to farm boy-archer Eragon, fated to be the new dragon rider. After the bad acting by the slumming great actors, the next best thing in the picture is the dragon. (SH)

FLUSHED AWAY (PG, 87 minutes) This first computer-generated cartoon by Aardman Animations — best known for Nick Park's brilliant "Wallace & Gromit" franchise — does away with the clay but leaves the craft and emotion intact. When circumstances conspire to send Roddy, a pet mouse (Hugh Jackman), down the loo and into a sewer-level London populated by rats, toads, the odd frog and a charming Greek chorus of slugs, he discovers what's really important in life. Shot through with cheeky wit and hilarious musical numbers by slugs. (AH)

FREEDOM WRITERS (PG-13, 123 minutes) When will the students ditch their attitude and love the teacher — the one trying so hard to reach them? And why do we keep falling for movies as cut and dried as these? Perhaps because these films reinforce our need to see teachers as sensitive heroes. By the simple force of her acting, Hilary Swank (as real-life English teacher Erin Gruwell) is compelling as she faces the hostility of her students. (DT)

GOD GREW TIRED OF US (PG, 89 minutes) The title of this documentary is taken from an interview with the film's most engaging subject, a charismatic and indomitable Sudanese refugee named John Bul Dau. He's trying to explain the atrocities he suffered and witnessed as one of 27,000 "Lost Boys" who trekked from southern Sudan to Ethiopia and finally to Kenya to avoid slaughter during the 20-year civil war. Dau is one of three Lost Boys whose resettlement in the United States is chronicled in this affecting and engaging film. Director Christopher Quinn gracefully portrays the cultural clashes but never overplays the naifs-come-to-the-big-city motif. Instead, he limns with economy and subtlety the epic struggles of three young men building new lives while try-

Continued on page 30



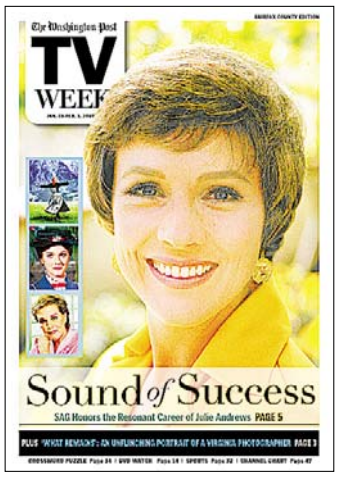
JOHN P. JOHNSON/TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX

APPARENTLY, THERE IS A NEW DEFINITION OF 'EPIC'

Blockbusted

"EPIC MOVIE" IS a spoof of blockbuster movies that parodies all the best bits from "Pirates of the Caribbean," "The Da Vinci Code," "Harry Potter" and "The Chronicles of Narnia," among others. In other words, "Scream" for the blockbuster set. Written and directed by Jason Friedberg and Aaron Seltzer, this cinematic goof stars Kal Penn, Adam Campbell and Jennifer Coolidge. (LOS ANGELES TIMES)

Sunday in The Washington Post



Brings Us Back to Do-Oh-Oh: TV Week talks with Julie Andrews about her work and the Screen Actors Guild Life Achievement Award she'll receive. | *TV World*

Rich Dough: If you're tired of bland bagels, sink your teeth into the ones offered at the local mom-and-pop shops we recommend. | *Sunday Source*

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Now Playing

Continued from page 29

ing not to forget the devastation they left behind. The film's arresting visual images are provided just enough context from Nicole Kidman's moving narration. (AH)

THE GOOD SHEPHERD (R, 157 minutes) Edward Wilson (Matt Damon) is from one of those old families — the ones that knew everybody, got the best jobs and knew which wine went with which course. The thrust of the film is his journey to becoming a Central Intelligence Agency player of the '60s, but his investigation stops to wander through history, tracking what may be Edward's growth or his damnation. The movie is serious adult moviemaking from director Robert De Niro, a man deeply interested in the art, craft and psychology of espionage. (SH)

HAPPILY N'EVER AFTER (PG, 87 minutes) From the number of walkouts at a recent screening, this slick piece of computer animation that can be described as a family film only in the sense that it's a film the whole family will want to avoid, will open quietly, do no business and be quickly forgotten. This movie winds up answering the question of what "Shrek" hath wrought, and between its plastic-looking visuals and cynical attitude, the news isn't good. (AH)

HAPPY FEET (PG, 98 minutes) Anyone watching this computer-animated flick about an adorable tap-dancing penguin named Mumble is going to, well, flip. Mumble (Elijah Wood) realizes he can't sing, let alone come up with the special "heart song" every able-bodied penguin needs to attract a mate. But the croaky fuzz ball sure can hoof. The movie's terrific songs are a warm cushion of welcome. (DT)

THE HISTORY BOYS (R, 104 minutes) The sentimental subject of this movie is a group of eight boys at a secondary school in England who have done so well on their exams that all have qualified as finalists for Oxford or Cambridge.The actors in all the major roles are holdovers from the stage version, which playwright Alan Bennett adapted for the screen. They modulate their performance admirably, even if the film is not quite as engaging as the play. (PETER MARKS)

THE HITCHER (R, 83 minutes) If you're driving by a theater that's showing this movie, remember what your mother said about picking up hitchhikers: Don't even think of stopping. We offer that advice after we stopped to watch this remake

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IN THE FILM "Blood and Chocolate," a young werewolf (Agnes Bruckner) living in Bucharest, Romania, falls for a human comic book artist (Hugh Dancy), much to the displeasure of her pack leader (Olivier Martinez) — and to thousands of lonely sci-fi geeks who dream of that exact thing happening to them. The film is based on the book by Annette Curtis Klause. (LOS ANGELES TIMES)

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of the 1986 action-horror flick. You'd be better off renting the first film; the latest version is a dismal, bloody effort that can't even honor the cliches of horror-flickdom. Aficionados know that a scare flick gives audiences an early taste of the grisly stuff to come. But this movie flubs right at the starting gate, when a jack rabbit — clearly computer-generated — hops in front of a speeding truck. From this point, the movie sticks resolutely to the task of failing the tropes of the genre. (DT)

THE LAST KING OF SCOTLAND (R, 121 minutes) This film concerns the flamboyant African despot Idi Amin, said to have been responsible for the murder of 300,000 of his fellow Ugandans during the '70s. The movie uses a fictional device to get up close and personal, but Amin, representing a human extreme, is so much more interesting than his witness, a young Scottish doctor. (SH)

LETTERS FROM IWO JIMA (R, 140 minutes) Clint Eastwood's film starts and stops on "Sulphur Island," where on Feb. 19, 1945, two divisions of Marines came ashore in what would be one of the bloodiest battles of the war. Like his "Flags of Our Fathers," it isn't really a history of a battle. In the last half-hour, the story, loses its way; lacking any clear-cut goals except survival, the film becomes repetitive. It's a necessary movie; too bad it's not a great movie. (SH)

LITTLE CHILDREN (R, 130 minutes) In this movie, the arrival of a convicted child molester in East Wyndam, Mass., triggers outrage throughout the community. But Ronnie the pedophile (Jackie Earle Haley) is practically one of the good guys. The

Continued on page 32

COURTESY "SCREAMERS"

GENOCIDE'S SPOKEN HERE

Rebel Yell

WORLDS COLLIDE IN Carla Garapedian's documentary "Screamers." Devil horn-flashing metalheads speak articulately and knowledgeably about historical events; Arnold Schwarzenegger does the right thing; even the dead speak. What brings these threads together is the slaughter of Armenians in Turkey in the early part of last century, the event for which the word "genocide" was coined. Interviews with talking heads are combined with concert and road footage of the band System of a Dwon, outspoken Armenian-Americans who use their bully pulpit to help raise awareness about the atrocities. To this day, Turkey continues to silence those who speak frankly about or even allude to the events of 1915 to 1923. Journalist Hrant Dink discusses this in the film, and it's heartbreaking how robust he looks — Dink was assassinated Jan. 19. ARION BERGER (EXPRESS)

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Continued from page 31

film is a hugely absorbing social drama that is, by turns, excruciating, sad and sardonic. (DT)

LITTLE MISS SUNSHINE (R, 101 minutes) Throw a quirky family in a broken-down, yellow VW bus en route from Albuquerque to Redondo Beach, Calif., so that 7-year-old Olive (Abigail Breslin) can compete for the dubious title of Little Miss Sunshine. What happens when the family actually makes it to the pageant is sad, sweet, enlightening and really, really funny. (JENNIFER FREY)

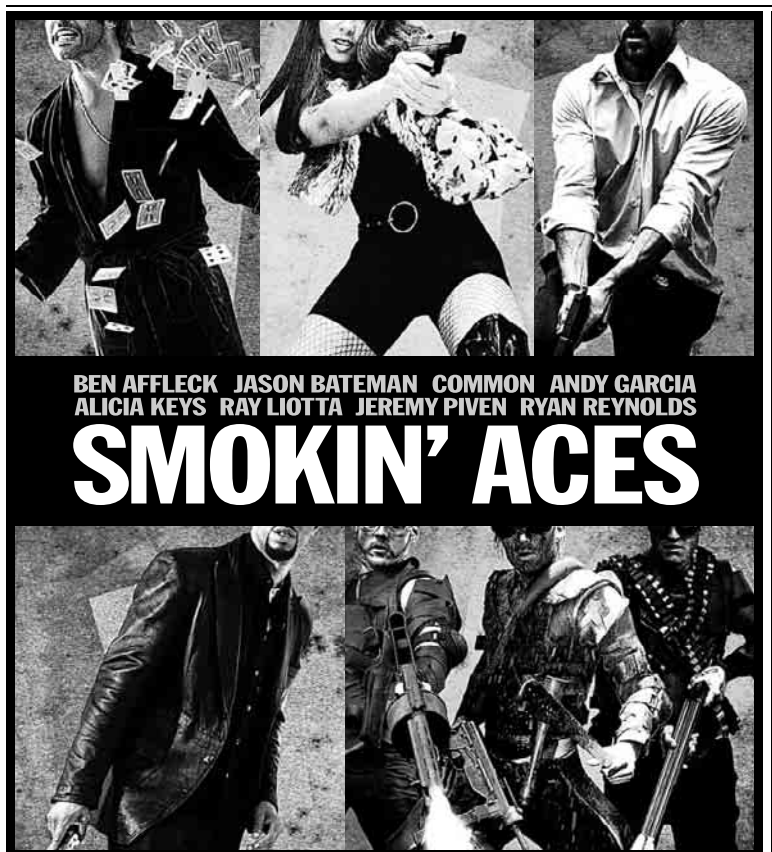
LIVE AND BECOME (Unrated, 140 minutes) Ethiopian Jews and their repatriation to the Holy Land is the political context for Radu Mihaileanu's mostly affecting story of an Ethiopian boy who becomes an accidental part of that communal history. (DT)

MISS POTTER (PG, 92 minutes) In this film about children's author Beatrix Potter (Renee Zellweger), we learn about the restrictive household in which she lived and how she takes comfort in the animals she befriends, adopts and anthropomorphizes in her stories. When Beatrix falls in love with Norman Warne (Ewan McGregor), her publisher and her parents object to the union because Norman works for a living. If the movie is respectful and factually informative, it's also tightly corseted. (DT)

NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM (PG, 108 minutes) Ben Stiller plays Larry Daley, a divorced dad who finds work at New York's Museum of Natural History. At night, all the stuffed animals, dioramas and mannequins come to life and run amok. The plot thickens, but the movie is mostly all about those eye-popping scenes of lions, zebras, Civil War soldiers and Sacagawea committing sundry acts of mayhem and mischief. (AH)

NOTES ON A SCANDAL (R, 98 minutes) Judi Dench plays Ms. Covett, a salty old pro teaching at an English middle school, and she noted poor Sheba Hart (Cate Blanchett), the new art teacher, back when she came to the young teacher's rescue as misbehavior threatened to turn her class into anarchy. We watch what we think will unspool as a touching story of human weakness as told from a sympathetic viewpoint, but we soon realize that cheesy uplift is not on the menu. (SH)

THE PAINTED VEIL (PG-13, 125 minutes) This high-minded adaptation of an ancient novel by W. Somerset Maugham stars Edward Norton as a stiff research physician who marries a flighty woman played by Naomi Watts. Even though the movie was handsomely shot in the Guangxi province of China,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there's almost no engagement with the people, culture and realities of the country in the '20s. (SH)

PAN'S LABYRINTH (R, 112 minutes) It's 1944, the fascists have just won Spain's civil war and a girl named Ofelia (Ivana Baquero) is traveling with her mother, Carmen (Ariadna Gil), to live with her new stepfather, a Nationalist army captain named Vidal (Sergi López). When Ofelia arrives at her new home, it becomes clear she matters little to Vidal. Ofelia increasingly takes refuge in a richly imagined fantasy life, one that eventually leads her to a faun living in the titular labyrinth on the house's property. With this film, director Guillermo del Toro seems to have created his manifesto, a tour de force of cautionary zeal, humanism and magic. (AH)

PRIMEVAL (R, 94 minutes) Lumbering cliches and hilariously bad special effects make this horror movie about a killer croc one for the bottom of the swamp. (DT)

THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS (PG-13, 117 minutes) This movie is the biography of a real guy named Christopher Gardner, whom Will Smith, charming and bright, embodies to the fingertips. He is a salesman who ends up on the streets — with his son. The movie is almost devised like a rat-in-maze experiment. Every few minutes, some new obstacle comes up for Chris, at which point the film stands back and watches him improvise. (SH)

THE QUEEN (PG-13, 99 minutes) England's constitutional irony is the chilly but entertaining subtext of Stephen Frears' tragicomedy. The crisis begins in late August 1997, when Queen Elizabeth II (Helen Mirren) learns of Princess Diana's death. Mirren's finely calibrated performance reveals a complex woman coping with a bewildering world. (DT)

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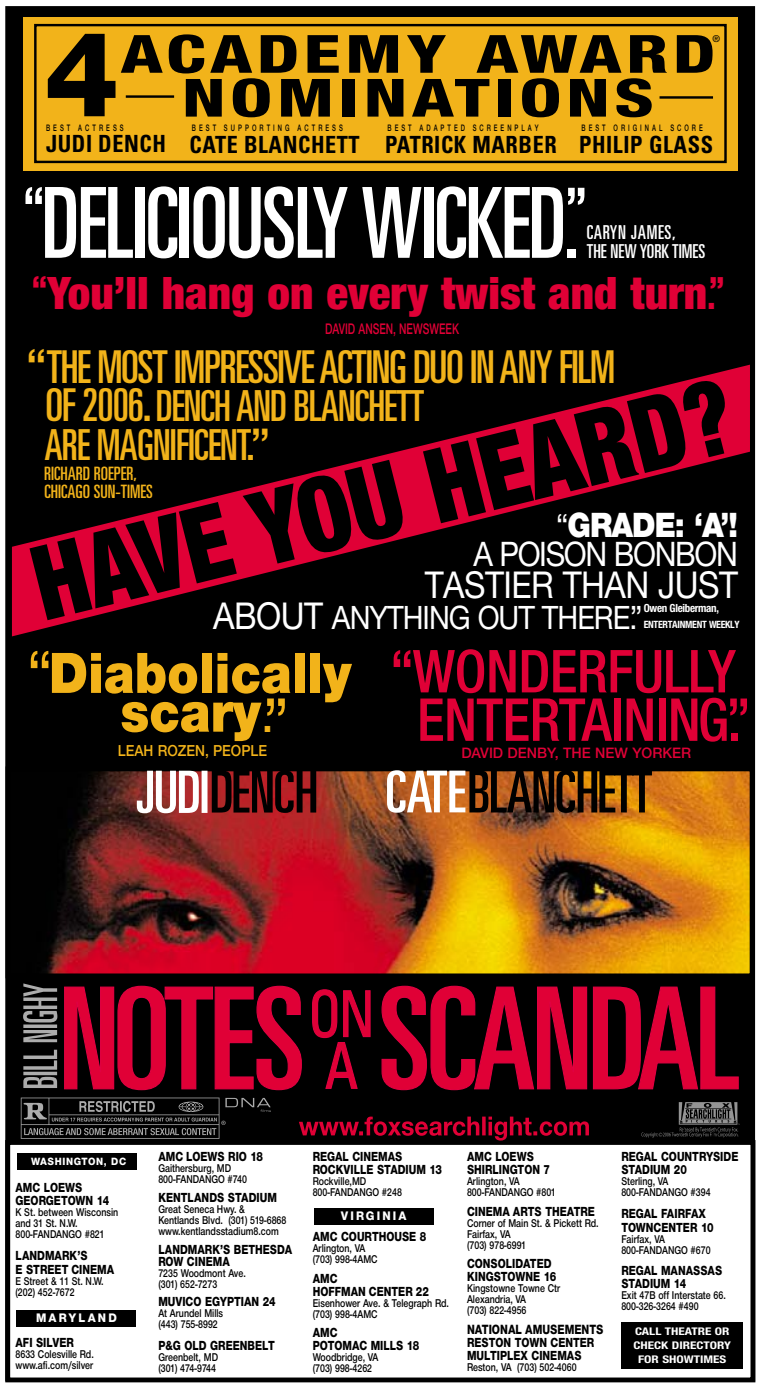
UNNATURAL HISTORY 'MUSEUM': Ben Stiller is still near the top of the box office.

ROCKY BALBOA (PG, 98 minutes) There's Sylvester Stallone again, sucking down raw eggs and pounding sides of beef to train for another prime-time bout. It feels like the first fight all over again, and suddenly a silly little movie built entirely on classic hokum seems to matter. Not just because it's one last roundhouse punch at the world of digital zeros and ones. It matters because this boxer taps into the hope that one day we're going to win big, too, after everyone has given up on us. (DT)

STOMP THE YARD (PG-13, 115 minutes)

Continued on page 36



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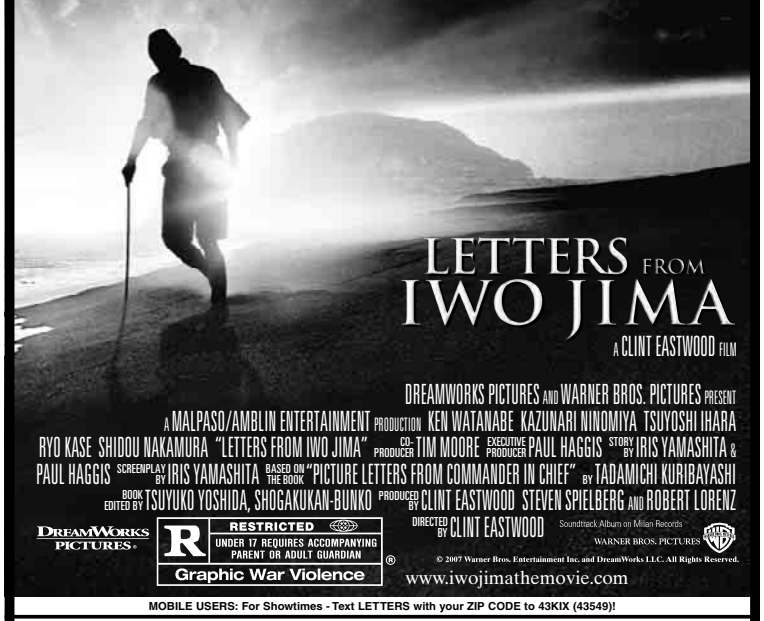

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CATCH AND RELEASE (PG-13) DIG	(155 440) 730 1015
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THE HITCHER (R) - ID REQ'D DIG	(205 435) 650 915 1140
STOMP THE YARD (PG-13) DIG	(100 400) 700 1000
OC: FREEDOM WRITERS (PG-13) DIG	(1245)
FREEDOM WRITERS (PG-13) DIG	(340) 635 940
CHILDREN OF MEN (R) - ID REQ'D DIG	(115 355) 640 930
DREAMGIRLS (PG-13) DIG	(105 410) 715 1020
THE GOOD SHEPHERD (R) - ID REQ'D DIG	(1225 405) 750 1130
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM (PG) DIG	(145 445) 735 1035
PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS (PG-13) DIG	(1250 345) 635 925
BLOOD DIAMOND (R) - ID REQ'D DIG	(1240 350) 740 1050

COUNTRYSIDE STADIUM 20
45980 Regal Plaza 800-FANDANGO 394#

Adv. Tix on Sale AMAZING GRACE (PG) ★	
BLOOD AND CHOCOLATE (PG-13) DIG	(1155 220 500) 745 1035
SMOKIN ACES (R) - ID REQ'D DIG	(1145 230 430 530) 720 830 1015
EPIC MOVIE (PG-13) DIG	(1140 1230 150 250 410) 625 750 850 1010
CATCH AND RELEASE (PG-13) DIG	(200 450) 740 1025
DEPARTED (R) - ID REQ'D DIG	(1215) 630 950
THE QUEEN (PG-13) DIG	(240 540) 810 1040
THE HITCHER (R) - ID REQ'D DIG	(1200 550) 820 1040
LETTERS FROM IWO JIMA (R) - ID REQ'D DIG	(1210 320) 700 1020
BABEL (R) - ID REQ'D DIG	(1150)
STOMP THE YARD (PG-13) DIG	(110 350) 635 930
ARTHUR AND THE INVISIBLES (PG) DIG	(130)
OC: FREEDOM WRITERS (PG-13) DIG	(1250)
FREEDOM WRITERS (PG-13) DIG	(340) 640 945
PAN'S LABYRINTH (R) - ID REQ'D DIG	(120 420) 710 955
NOTES ON A SCANDAL (R) - ID REQ'D DIG	(1240 310 545) 800 1025
CHILDREN OF MEN (R) - ID REQ'D DIG	(330)
DREAMGIRLS (PG-13) DIG	(1220 315) 620 920
THE GOOD SHEPHERD (R) - ID REQ'D DIG	(210)
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM (PG) DIG	(100 400) 650 940
CHARLOTTE'S WEB (G) DIG	(115)
PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS (PG-13) DIG	(1245 345) 645 935
CASINO ROYALE (PG-13) DIG	(300) 610 910
HAPPY FEET (PG) DIG	(510)
VOLVER (R) - ID REQ'D DIG	(140 440) 730 1030
THE LAST KING OF SCOTLAND (R) - ID REQ'D DIG	(415) 715 1000

ROCKVILLE CENTER STADIUM 13
Rockville Town Center 800-FANDANGO 248#

SMOKIN ACES (R) - ID REQ'D DIG	(215 455) 730 1010 1240
EPIC MOVIE (PG-13) DIG	(1240 245 500) 715 935 1150
CATCH AND RELEASE (PG-13) DIG	(200 445) 745 1025
DEPARTED (R) - ID REQ'D DIG	(1230 345) 700
LETTERS FROM IWO JIMA (R) - ID REQ'D DIG	(330) 645 955
PAN'S LABYRINTH (R) - ID REQ'D DIG	(235 515) 815 1050
DREAMGIRLS (PG-13) DIG	(130 430) 730 1030
THE QUEEN (PG-13) DIG	(1240 305 530) 800 1035
NOTES ON A SCANDAL (R) - ID REQ'D DIG	(1230 250 510) 800 1035
STOMP THE YARD (PG-13) DIG	(240 525) 815 1100
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM (PG) DIG	(230 505) 745 1015
PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS (PG-13)	(115 415) 715 1000
FREEDOM WRITERS (PG-13) DIG	(100 400) 700 945
THE HITCHER (R) - ID REQ'D DIG	1020 1225
CHILDREN OF MEN (R) - ID REQ'D DIG	1230

FAIRFAX TOWNE CENTER 10
4110 W Ox Road 800-FANDANGO 670#

Adv. Tix on Sale AMAZING GRACE (PG) ★	
BLOOD AND CHOCOLATE (PG-13) DIG	(150 435) 740 1005
EPIC MOVIE (PG-13) DIG	(105 310 515) 730 940
CATCH AND RELEASE (PG-13) DIG	(125 440) 735 1020
THE HITCHER (R) - ID REQ'D	650 930
FREEDOM WRITERS (PG-13)	(110 410) 710 1000
PAN'S LABYRINTH (R) - ID REQ'D DIG	(140 425) 725 1015
NOTES ON A SCANDAL (R) - ID REQ'D DIG	(135 350) 645 920
CHARLOTTE'S WEB (G)	(145 415)
PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS (PG-13) DIG	(130 420) 720 1010
BABEL (R) - ID REQ'D DIG	(120 430) 750
THE LAST KING OF SCOTLAND (R) - ID REQ'D DIG	(100 400) 700 950

GERMANTOWN STADIUM 14
20000 Century Blvd 800-FANDANGO 455#

EPIC MOVIE (PG-13) DIG	(1230 240 500) 730 1000
SMOKIN ACES (R) - ID REQ'D DIG	(100 445) 800 1045
CATCH AND RELEASE (PG-13) DIG	(1245 415) 715 1010
PAN'S LABYRINTH (R) - ID REQ'D DIG	(1250 400) 700 950
BLOOD AND CHOCOLATE (PG-13) DIG	(1230 300 520) 745 1015
DEPARTED (R) - ID REQ'D DIG	(115 445) 815
THE QUEEN (PG-13) DIG	(1250 345) 645 945
THE HITCHER (R) - ID REQ'D DIG	(1230 250 515) 815 1040
BABEL (R) - ID REQ'D DIG	(330) 730 1040
STOMP THE YARD (PG-13) DIG	(100 430) 745 1030
FREEDOM WRITERS (PG-13) DIG	(110 430) 800 1045
DREAMGIRLS (PG-13) DIG	(1245 400) 715 1020
CHILDREN OF MEN (R) - ID REQ'D DIG	(1240)
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM (PG) DIG	(1240 410) 645 945
PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS (PG-13) DIG	(115 415) 700 1020

UA SNOWDEN SQ STADIUM 14
9161 Commerce Ctr Dr 800-FANDANGO 570#

Adv. Tix on Sale AMAZING GRACE (PG) ★	
BLOOD AND CHOCOLATE (PG-13) DIG	(200 500) 810 1030
SMOKIN ACES (R) - ID REQ'D DIG	(130 415) 730 1010
EPIC MOVIE (PG-13) DIG	(200 500) 745 1020
CATCH AND RELEASE (PG-13) DIG	(115 400) 730 1010
DEPARTED (R) - ID REQ'D DIG	800
THE QUEEN (PG-13) DIG	(115 400) 715 1000
THE HITCHER (R) - ID REQ'D DIG	(415) 950
OC: STOMP THE YARD (PG-13) DIG	(130)
BABEL (R) - ID REQ'D DIG	(100) 645
STOMP THE YARD (PG-13) DIG	(430) 745 1020
PAN'S LABYRINTH (R) - ID REQ'D DIG	(100 345) 715 950
CHILDREN OF MEN (R) - ID REQ'D DIG	(1230) 630
DREAMGIRLS (PG-13) DIG	(1245 345) 700 1000
THE GOOD SHEPHERD (R) - ID REQ'D DIG	(300) 915
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM (PG) DIG	(145 445) 800 1030
CHARLOTTE'S WEB (G) DIG	(145 430)
PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS (PG-13) DIG	(1230 315) 645 930
VOLVER (R) - ID REQ'D DIG	(1245 330) 700 940

MANASSAS STADIUM 14
11380 Bulloch Drive 800-FANDANGO 490#

Adv. Tix on Sale AMAZING GRACE (PG) ★	
SMOKIN ACES (R) - ID REQ'D DIG	(100 340) 720 1000
EPIC MOVIE (PG-13) DIG	(1200 210 420) 740 1005
CATCH AND RELEASE (PG-13) DIG	(120 355) 735 1015
DEPARTED (R) - ID REQ'D DIG	(305) 630 945
THE QUEEN (PG-13) DIG	(110 400) 725 1010
THE HITCHER (R) - ID REQ'D DIG	(1230 240 445) 755 1010
BABEL (R) - ID REQ'D DIG	(250) 635 950
STOMP THE YARD (PG-13) DIG	(1250 350) 705 940
ARTHUR AND THE INVISIBLES (PG) DIG	(1245)
FREEDOM WRITERS (PG-13) DIG	(1235 325) 640 925
PAN'S LABYRINTH (R) - ID REQ'D DIG	(105 405) 700 935
NOTES ON A SCANDAL (R) - ID REQ'D DIG	(1220 235 450) 745 1020
DREAMGIRLS (PG-13) DIG	(1210 315) 650 950
CHILDREN OF MEN (R) - ID REQ'D DIG	(1155)
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM (PG) DIG	(125 415) 655 930
PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS (PG-13) DIG	(1215 310) 715 955

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STOMP THE YARD (PG-13)
(!) 12:50, 3:45, 6:45, 10:20
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM (PG)
(!) 12:15, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10
THE HITCHER (R)
(!) 12:30, 2:40, 5:20, 7:50, 10:20
SMOKIN' ACES (R)
(!) 12:15, 2:45, 5:20, 7:50, 10:30
FREEDOM WRITERS (PG-13)
(!) 12:45, 3:30, 6:45, 10:00
DREAMGIRLS (PG-13)
(!) 12:45, 3:45, 6:45, 10:20

LANDMARK'S
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7235 Woodmont Ave • (301) 652-7273

Moviefone (301 or 202) 333-FILM #805
Bargain Mats. all shows before 6 pm
THE PAINTED VEIL (PG-13)
1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45
VENUS (R) 2:05, 4:35, 7:20, 9:35
VOLVER (R)
1:40, 4:20, 7:05, 9:50
THE LAST KING OF SCOTLAND (R)
4:05, 9:20
THE QUEEN (PG-13)
1:35, 6:55
NOTES ON A SCANDAL (R)
2:15, 4:40, 7:25, 10:00
PAN'S LABYRINTH (R)
1:55, 4:30, 7:15, 9:55
CHILDREN OF MEN (R)
1:50, 4:25, 7:10, 9:40
LETTERS FROM IWO JIMA (R)
3:30, 6:30, 9:30

LAUREL CINEMA 6
LAUREL SHOPPING CENTER RT. 1
301-604-2885
SHOWS BEFORE 6PM $5.00
EPIC MOVIE (PG-13) 5:20, 7:25, 9:30
THE HITCHER (R) 7:20, 9:30
DREAMGIRLS (PG-13) 4:15, 7:00, 9:40
ARTHUR AND THE INVISIBLES (PG) 5:15
STOMP THE YARD (PG-13) 4:40, 7:15, 9:35

MARLOW 6 THEATRES
Temple Hills, Md. 301-316-1031
SMOKIN' ACES (R)
12:10, 2:10, 4:10, 6:10, 8:10, 10:10
STOMP THE YARD (PG-13)
12:30, 2:50, 5:05, 7:20, 9:45
PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS (PG-13)
12:25, 2:40, 5:10, 7:25, 9:40
DREAMGIRLS (PG-13)
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 9:55
THE HITCHER (R)
12:20, 1:50, 3:40, 5:20, 6:50, 8:40, 10:20
CODE NAME: THE CLEANER (PG-13)
12:05, 4:15, 8:25
FREEDOM WRITERS (PG-13)
1:55, 6:05, 10:15

P&G WESTFIELD MONTGOMERY
7101 Democracy Blvd. Beth. 301-767-9555
BARGAIN MATINEES BEFORE 6 PM!
THE QUEEN (PG-13)
2:15, 4:45, 7:10, 9:35
EPIC MOVIE (PG-13) 3:15, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM (PG)
2:30, 5:00, 7:20, 9:25

P&G OLD GREENBELT
301-474-9744
40 ft. Screen
At intersection of Crescent & Southway
www.pgtheatres.com
NOTES ON A SCANDAL (R)
(5:25 @ $5.00) 7:30, 9:35

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9650 Main St., Fairfax 703-978-6991
www.cinemaartstheatre.com

YIPPEE!
This week's lineup garnered 16 Academy Award Nominations!

VENUS (R) (1 nomination)
9:55 am, 12:25, 2:45, 4:45, 7:10, 9:15
PAN'S LABYRINTH (R) (6 nominations)
9:50 am, 12:10, 2:40, 5:00, 7:50, 10:00
NOTES ON A SCANDAL (R) (2 noms.)
10:05 am, 12:20, 2:20, 4:30, 7:20, 9:35
THE PAINTED VEIL (PG-13)
9:35 am, 12:05, 2:30, 4:55, 7:40, 10:10
VOLVER (R) (1 nomination)
9:45 am, 12:00, 2:25, 4:55, 7:30, 9:45
THE QUEEN (PG-13) (6 nominations)
10 am, 12:15, 2:35, 4:50, 8:00, 10:05

DISTRICT

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E street CINEMA
E St. at 11th St. NW • (202) 452-7672

Moviefone (301 or 202) 333-3456 #781
BARGAIN MATINEES BEFORE 6 PM
ABSOLUTE WILSON (NR)
11:50, 2:15, 5:00, 7:25, 10:00
PAN'S LABYRINTH (R)
11:15, 11:45, 1:45, 2:30, 4:30
5:15, 7:10, 8:00, 9:50
VOLVER (R)
11:00, 1:30, 4:20, 7:00, 9:30
NOTES ON A SCANDAL (R)
11:40, 2:20, 4:35, 7:15, 9:25
GOD GREW TIRED OF US (PG)
12:30, 2:40, 5:10, 7:30, 9:35
THE LAST KING OF SCOTLAND (R)
11:10, 4:25, 9:40
THE QUEEN (PG-13)
2:00, 7:20
THE PAINTED VEIL (PG-13)
11:05, 1:40, 4:15, 7:05, 9:45

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Fri-Sun/holidays & before 6 pm Mon-Thu
STOMP THE YARD (PG-13)
1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45
DREAMGIRLS (PG-13)
12:30, 3:35, 6:30, 9:30
THE HITCHER (R)
1:25, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:35
SMOKIN' ACES (R)
11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:15, 9:50
BLOOD AND CHOCOLATE (PG-13)
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:35, 10:00
EPIC MOVIE (PG-13)
11:45, 1:50, 4:20, 6:45, 8:50

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AMC Select - Special films for select tastes.

AMC HOFFMANN CENTER 22
Eisenhower Ave and Telegraph Road in Alexandria
703-998-4AMC

BLOOD AND CHOCOLATE (PG13) ✓ 12:10, 2:45, 5:30, 8:15, 10:40, 1:00
CATCH AND RELEASE (PG13) ✓ (10:25 @ $5), 1:25, 4:10, 6:50, 9:30, 12:15
THE DEPARTED (R) 12:45, 4:20, 7:55, 11:30
EPIC MOVIE (PG13) ✓ 12:00, 2:30, 4:55, 7:15, 9:40, 12:30
SMOKIN' ACES (R) ✓ (11:15 @ $5), 2:00, 4:45, 7:30, 10:15, 1:00
THE HITCHER (R) ✓ (10:55 @ $5), 1:10, 3:35, 5:55, 8:05, 10:20, 12:40
SCREAMERS (R) (11:05 @ $5), 1:35, 4:05, 6:40, 9:00, 11:15
ALPHA DOG (R) (11:30 @ $5), 5:50, 12:10
FREEDOM WRITERS (PG13) (10:05 @ $5), 1:05, 4:05, 7:05, 9:55, 12:45
STOMP THE YARD (PG13) (10:00, 11:00 @ $5), 1:00, 2:00, 4:00, 5:00, 7:00, 8:00, 10:00, 11:00, 12:55
THE GOOD SHEPHERD (R) 2:15, 8:35
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM (PG) (11:35 @ $5), 2:35, 5:15, 7:50, 10:25
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM (PG) [D] [CC] (11:35 @ $5), 2:35, 5:15, 7:50, 10:25
THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS (PG13) (10:15 @ $5), 1:15, 4:35, 7:35, 10:35
BLOOD DIAMOND (R) (10:30 @ $5), 1:40, 5:05, 8:20, 11:30

AMC SELECT
NOTES ON A SCANDAL (R) (11:25 @ $5), 1:55, 4:15, 6:55, 9:15
VOLVER (R) (10:05 @ $5), 12:55, 3:55, 7:10, 10:10
BABEL (R) (10:10 @ $5), 1:45, 4:50, 8:10, 11:40
THE LAST KING OF SCOTLAND (R) 12:40, 3:40, 6:45, 9:35, 12:25
PAN'S LABYRINTH (R) (10:50 @ $5), 1:30, 4:25, 7:20, 10:05, 12:50
CHILDREN OF MEN (R) 12:25, 2:55, 5:45, 8:20, 11:05
DREAMGIRLS (PG13) (10:20 @ $5), 1:20, 4:30, 7:45, 10:55
THE QUEEN (PG13) (10:35 @ $5), 1:25, 3:50, 6:35, 9:05, 11:35

AMC SPRINGFIELD MALL 10
Loisdale and Franconia Road
703-971-3991

BLOOD AND CHOCOLATE (PG13) 1:20, 4:15, 7:10, 9:30
THE DEPARTED (R) 1:00, 4:30, 8:00
EPIC MOVIE (PG13) 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:50, 10:20
SMOKIN' ACES (R) 1:30, 4:20, 7:20, 10:10
THE HITCHER (R) 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:50, 10:20
ARTHUR AND THE INVISIBLES (PG) 12:50, 3:10, 5:25, 7:40, 9:55
STOMP THE YARD (PG13) 1:40, 4:40, 7:30, 10:30
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM (PG) 1:30, 4:30, 7:20, 10:00
THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS (PG13) 1:15, 4:10, 7:00, 9:40

AMC SELECT
DREAMGIRLS (PG13) 1:20, 4:15, 7:10, 10:10

AMC MAZZA GALLERIE
Jenifer and Wisconsin
202-537-9553

CATCH AND RELEASE (PG13) ✓ 12:30, 3:05, 5:40, 8:15, 10:45
EPIC MOVIE (PG13) ✓ 12:05, 2:10, 4:15, 6:20, 8:25, 10:30
STOMP THE YARD (PG13) 2:20, 5:00, 7:30, 10:05
THE GOOD SHEPHERD (R) 12:00, 3:30, 6:55, 10:25
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM (PG) 12:20, 3:00, 5:30, 8:05, 10:35
THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS (PG13) 1:45, 4:25, 7:05, 10:00

AMC SELECT
CHILDREN OF MEN (R) 12:10, 2:55, 5:20, 7:50, 10:15
CHILDREN OF MEN (R) [D] [CC] 12:10, 2:55, 5:20, 7:50, 10:15

LOEWS GEORGETOWN 14
3111 K Street, N.W.
202-342-6441

BLOOD AND CHOCOLATE (PG13) ✓ 12:00, 2:10, 4:35, 7:10, 9:45
CATCH AND RELEASE (PG13) ✓ 2:05, 4:45, 7:25, 10:10
EPIC MOVIE (PG13) ✓ 1:15, 3:30, 5:50, 8:10, 10:30
SMOKIN' ACES (R) ✓ 12:00, 2:35, 5:15, 8:00, 10:45
THE HITCHER (R) ✓ 1:50, 6:50
STOMP THE YARD (PG13) 2:00, 4:55, 7:40, 10:20
THE GOOD SHEPHERD (R) 3:05, 6:45, 10:25
THE GOOD SHEPHERD (R) [CC] 3:05, 6:45, 10:25
THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS (PG13) 2:20, 5:05, 7:50, 10:40
BLOOD DIAMOND (R) 1:10, 4:20, 7:35, 10:50

AMC SELECT
NOTES ON A SCANDAL (R) 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:45, 10:15
LETTERS FROM IWO JIMA (R) ✓ 12:50, 3:55, 7:05, 10:35
PAN'S LABYRINTH (R) 1:45, 4:00, 4:40, 7:30, 9:15, 10:20
CHILDREN OF MEN (R) 12:05, 2:15, 4:50, 7:15, 9:50
DREAMGIRLS (PG13) 12:45, 3:50, 7:00, 10:05

LOEWS LEXINGTON PARK 6
21882 FDR Boulevard
301-862-5000

EPIC MOVIE (PG13) 1:30, 3:45, 5:55, 8:15, 10:40
SMOKIN' ACES (R) 2:20, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30
THE HITCHER (R) 2:10, 4:05, 7:30, 9:45
STOMP THE YARD (PG13) 1:50, 4:45, 7:45, 10:20
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM (PG) 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30

AMC SELECT
DREAMGIRLS (PG13) 1:40, 4:20, 7:10, 10:05

AMC POTOMAC MILLS 18
2700 Potomac Mills Circle, Ste 886
703-998-4262

BLOOD AND CHOCOLATE (PG13) ✓ (10:40 @ $5), 1:00, 3:25, 5:50, 8:20, 10:50
CATCH AND RELEASE (PG13) ✓ (11:15 @ $5), 2:00, 4:50, 7:35, 10:10
THE DEPARTED (R) 12:30, 3:45, 7:00, 10:15
EPIC MOVIE (PG13) ✓ (10:20 @ $5), 12:45, 3:15, 5:45, 8:15, 10:45
SMOKIN' ACES (R) ✓ 12:10, 2:45, 5:20, 8:05, 10:55
THE HITCHER (R) ✓ (10:50 @ $5), 1:10, 3:40, 5:55, 8:30, 11:00
ALPHA DOG (R) 12:05, 5:15, 10:30
ARTHUR AND THE INVISIBLES (PG) (11:05 @ $5), 1:35, 4:00
FREEDOM WRITERS (PG13) (10:30 @ $5), 1:15, 4:20, 7:10, 9:55
STOMP THE YARD (PG13) (11:00 @ $5), 1:50, 4:40, 6:30, 7:30, 9:20, 10:20
THE GOOD SHEPHERD (R) 12:00, 3:30
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM (PG) (10:45 @ $5), 1:20, 4:05, 6:50, 9:40
THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS (PG13) (10:55 @ $5), 1:45, 4:35, 7:15, 9:50
THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS (PG13) [D] [CC] (10:55 @ $5), 1:45, 4:35, 7:15, 9:50

AMC SELECT
NOTES ON A SCANDAL (R) (10:15 @ $5), 12:40, 3:05, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00
VOLVER (R) (10:35 @ $5), 1:25, 4:25, 7:25, 10:05
BABEL (R) 7:05, 10:25
PAN'S LABYRINTH (R) (11:25 @ $5), 2:15, 5:00, 7:50, 10:35
CHILDREN OF MEN (R) 2:50, 8:00
DREAMGIRLS (PG13) (10:25 @ $5), 1:30, 4:30, 7:40, 10:40
THE QUEEN (PG13) (11:30 @ $5), 2:10, 4:45, 7:20, 9:45

AMC COLUMBIA MALL 14
10300 Patuxent Parkway
410-423-0520

BLOOD AND CHOCOLATE (PG13) (11:45 @ $5), 2:20, 4:45, 7:20, 9:50
CATCH AND RELEASE (PG13) (11:10 @ $5), 1:55, 4:40, 7:30, 10:15
EPIC MOVIE (PG13) (11:05 @ $5), 1:25, 3:45, 6:05, 8:30, 10:55
SMOKIN' ACES (R) (11:50 @ $5), 2:35, 5:20, 8:00, 10:40
THE HITCHER (R) (11:35 @ $5), 1:45, 4:05, 6:10, 8:20, 10:35
ALPHA DOG (R) 4:10, 10:20
ARTHUR AND THE INVISIBLES (PG) (11:40 @ $5), 2:25
FREEDOM WRITERS (PG13) (11:55 @ $5), 2:40, 5:25, 8:10, 11:00
STOMP THE YARD (PG13) 12:50, 3:40, 6:30, 9:20
THE GOOD SHEPHERD (R) 12:20, 6:50
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM (PG) (10:40 @ $5), 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:40
THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS (PG13) (11:15 @ $5), 2:05, 4:55, 7:40, 10:30

AMC SELECT
LETTERS FROM IWO JIMA (R) 12:30, 3:35, 6:40, 9:45
PAN'S LABYRINTH (R) (10:45 @ $5), 1:35, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00
CHILDREN OF MEN (R) 5:10, 7:35, 10:05
DREAMGIRLS (PG13) (10:50 @ $5), 1:50, 4:50, 7:50, 10:50

LOEWS FAIRFAX SQUARE 8
8065 Leesburg Pike
703-506-9857 802

THE DEPARTED (R) 12:50, 4:00, 7:10, 10:25
ALPHA DOG (R) 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:40, 10:20
ARTHUR AND THE INVISIBLES (PG) 1:10, 3:30, 5:50, 8:00, 10:25
BORAT (R) 1:30, 4:00, 6:00, 8:10, 10:15
PELLAINA KOTHALO (NR–NOT RATED) 12:30, 3:50, 7:00, 10:10

AMC SELECT
VOLVER (R) 1:20, 4:50, 7:30, 10:05
BABEL (R) 1:00, 4:05, 7:20, 10:30
THE QUEEN (PG13) 12:40, 2:55, 5:20, 7:50, 10:40

MAGIC JOHNSON CAPITAL CENTRE 12
800 Shopper's Way, Largo
301-324-4220

BLOOD AND CHOCOLATE (PG13) 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 10:05
THE DEPARTED (R) 12:00, 3:15, 6:30, 9:45
EPIC MOVIE (PG13) 12:55, 3:00, 5:10, 7:40, 10:15
SMOKIN' ACES (R) 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50
THE HITCHER (R) 12:40, 3:05, 5:30, 8:00, 10:05
FREEDOM WRITERS (PG13) 12:50, 3:50, 6:50, 9:40
STOMP THE YARD (PG13) 12:35, 2:35, 3:35, 5:15, 6:35, 7:35, 9:35, 10:15
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM (PG) 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:10
THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS (PG13) 1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:10

AMC SELECT
THE LAST KING OF SCOTLAND (R) 1:05, 3:55, 6:55, 9:55
DREAMGIRLS (PG13) 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00

LOEWS DUPONT 5
1350 19th St.
1-800-FANDANGO #711

THE GOOD SHEPHERD (R) 2:30, 6:30, 9:50

AMC SELECT
BABEL (R) 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00
CHILDREN OF MEN (R) 2:00, 5:00, 7:45, 10:30
THE HISTORY BOYS (R) 1:50, 4:45, 7:30, 10:05
LITTLE CHILDREN (R) 1:30, 4:20, 7:20, 10:15

LOEWS UPTOWN 1
3426 Connecticut Avenue N.W.
1-800-FANDANGO #713

AMC SELECT
DREAMGIRLS (PG13) 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00

AMC TYSONS CORNER 16
7850 Tysons Corner Center
703-998-4262

BLOOD AND CHOCOLATE (PG13) ✓ (10:25 @ $6), 12:50, 3:15, 5:45, 8:15, 10:45
CATCH AND RELEASE (PG13) ✓ (11:00 @ $6), 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40, 12:10
EPIC MOVIE (PG13) ✓ (10:15 @ $6), 12:40, 2:50, 5:15, 7:40, 9:55, 12:05
SMOKIN' ACES (R) ✓ (11:15 @ $6), 1:55, 4:55, 7:55, 10:40
THE HITCHER (R) ✓ (10:50 @ $6), 1:00, 3:20, 5:40, 8:05, 10:15, 12:15
FREEDOM WRITERS (PG13) (10:30 @ $6), 1:25, 4:10, 7:10, 10:05
STOMP THE YARD (PG13) (11:25 @ $6), 2:00, 5:00, 8:00, 10:45
THE GOOD SHEPHERD (R) 12:00, 3:30, 7:15, 10:50
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM (PG) (10:45 @ $6), 1:20, 4:05, 7:05, 9:45, 12:15
THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS (PG13) (10:55 @ $6), 1:45, 4:50, 7:35, 10:35
BLOOD DIAMOND (R) (10:00 @ $6), 1:15, 4:30, 7:45, 10:55
CASINO ROYALE (PG13) (10:20 @ $6), 1:35, 4:35, 7:50, 11:00
CASINO ROYALE (PG13) [D] [CC] (10:20 @ $6), 1:35, 4:35, 7:50, 11:00

AMC SELECT
LETTERS FROM IWO JIMA (R) ✓ (10:05 @ $6), 1:05, 4:15, 7:20, 10:30
PAN'S LABYRINTH (R) (11:10 @ $6), 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:20
CHILDREN OF MEN (R) (10:35 @ $6), 1:30, 4:25, 7:00, 9:30, 11:55
DREAMGIRLS (PG13) (10:10 @ $6), 1:10, 4:20, 7:25, 10:25

AMC RIVERTOWNE 12
Exit 4A I-95, 1/2 mi. on Oxon Hill Rd.
703-998-4AMC

BLOOD AND CHOCOLATE (PG13) ✓ 4:20, 7:20, 10:00
THE DEPARTED (R) 3:50, 7:00, 10:10
EPIC MOVIE (PG13) ✓ 5:20, 8:00, 10:30
SMOKIN' ACES (R) ✓ 4:40, 7:30, 10:15
THE HITCHER (R) ✓ 5:45, 8:05, 10:25
ARTHUR AND THE INVISIBLES (PG) 4:10, 7:10, 9:50
FREEDOM WRITERS (PG13) 4:35, 7:40, 10:35
STOMP THE YARD (PG13) 4:30, 7:50, 10:45
CODE NAME: THE CLEANER (PG13) 8:10, 10:40
HAPPILY N'EVER AFTER (PG) 5:40
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM (PG) 5:10, 8:00, 10:40
THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS (PG13) 4:45, 7:45, 10:45

AMC SELECT
DREAMGIRLS (PG13) 3:45, 6:45, 10:20

AMC COURTHOUSE PLAZA 8
Courthouse and Birch Rd.
703-998-4AMC

THE DEPARTED (R) 12:40, 4:00, 6:50, 9:50
EPIC MOVIE (PG13) ✓ 12:30, 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:30
ALPHA DOG (R) 4:10, 9:40
FREEDOM WRITERS (PG13) 1:50, 4:30, 7:50, 10:20
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM (PG) 12:20, 2:50, 5:20, 7:40, 10:10
THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS (PG13) 2:10, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

AMC SELECT
NOTES ON A SCANDAL (R) 12:50, 3:00, 5:10, 7:20, 9:25
BABEL (R) 1:00, 6:40
CHILDREN OF MEN (R) 2:20, 4:40, 7:00, 9:20

LOEWS SHIRLINGTON 7
2772 South Randolph
703-671-0910 801

AMC SELECT
NOTES ON A SCANDAL (R) 2:10, 4:50, 7:40, 9:40
VOLVER (R) 1:40, 4:20, 7:20, 9:50
BABEL (R) 9:40 PM
LETTERS FROM IWO JIMA (R) 2:00, 5:00, 8:00
PAN'S LABYRINTH (R) 1:40, 4:10, 7:00, 9:30
VENUS (R) 1:50, 4:30, 7:20, 9:20
THE PAINTED VEIL (PG13) 1:20, 4:40, 7:10
THE QUEEN (PG13) 1:30, 3:50, 7:10, 9:20

AMC COUNTRY CLUB MALL 6
Country Club Mall on Vocke Rd near Route 68.
301-729-6633

EPIC MOVIE (PG13) ✓ 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:45, 10:05
THE HITCHER (R) ✓ 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:45, 9:55
STOMP THE YARD (PG13) ✓ 1:00, 4:45, 7:30, 10:15
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM (PG) 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:25
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM (PG) [D] [CC] 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:25
THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS (PG13) 1:15, 4:30, 7:15, 9:55

AMC SELECT
DREAMGIRLS (PG13) 1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 10:05

LOEWS WHITE FLINT 5
North Bethesda
1-800-FANDANGO #741

THE DEPARTED (R) 6:25
FREEDOM WRITERS (PG13) 2:00, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00
THE GOOD SHEPHERD (R) 2:45, 9:40
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM (PG) 2:15, 4:45, 7:10, 9:45
THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS (PG13) 2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:05

AMC SELECT
BABEL (R) 2:45, 7:00, 10:10

Times for Friday, January 26, 2007

✓-SPECIAL ENGAGEMENT No passes or discount coupons
[CC] - Closed Captioning · [D] - Descriptive Video Service

Weekend | Entertainment

Now Playing

Continued from page 33

This is really two movies. The first and most forgettable is the old one about a young man finding himself and becoming somebody. The young man is a Los Angeles street dancer named DJ, and at college he decides to commit to a team sport, and as an athlete finds the respect, the brotherhood, the emotional completion that has been denied him by circumstance and pathology. He leads the team to the nationals. Ho-hum. But the sport isn't basketball or football or anything like that: It's stepping. And that's the second movie. If you've never seen it, it's quite a show. (SH)

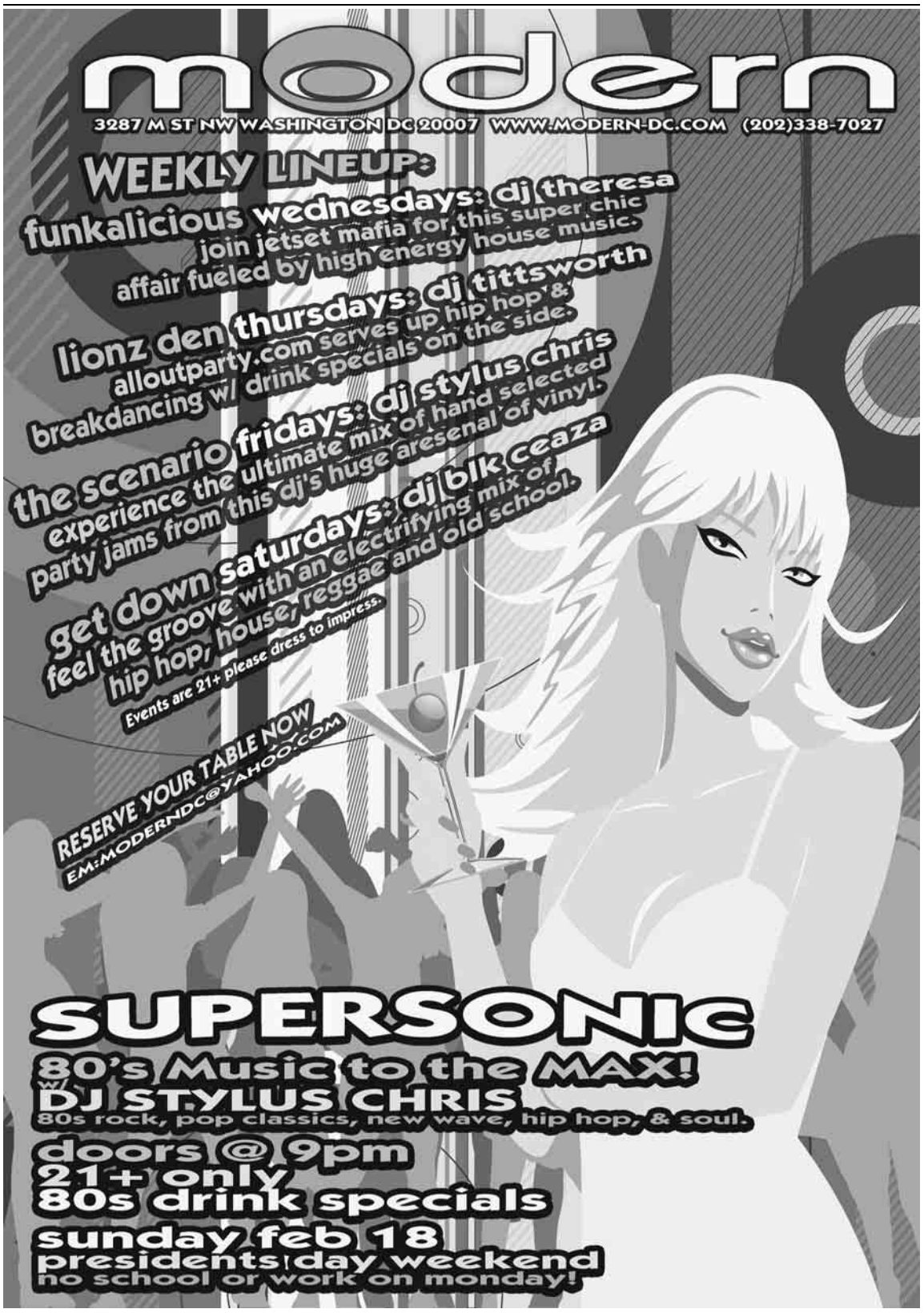
VENUS (R, 91 minutes) Maurice, a veteran stage actor (Peter O'Toole), is facing his final exit, both in career and life. He's also about to undergo prostate surgery, which will almost certainly render him impotent. But then he meets Jessie (Jodie Whittaker), the 19-year-old grandniece of a close friend. Jessie may be sullen and lacking in sophistication, but Maurice sees her as an unwitting Venus, goddess of love and beauty. Normally, we'd balk at a movie about an 80-year-old man's infatuation with a teenage girl, but a geezer's lust is just the starting point for the film, an edgily charming meditation about the mysteries of attraction. It's something of a philosophical unromance, as the filmmakers celebrate a spiritual connection between two generationally mismatched characters. Thanks to our warm investment in both characters, we're more than willing to sign up for this existential ride. (DT)

DREAMWORKS PICTURES

YOU MUST NOT KNOW 'BOUT ME, DREAMGIRL: Beyoncé lets Jennifer Hudson have it.

VOLVER (R, 121 minutes) Penélope Cruz plays a beleaguered Madrid homemaker at the center of Pedro Almodóvar's warmly seductive movie. She plays Raimunda, an airport cleaner whose quiet heroics take place at home, and she's a subtle revelation. Raimunda's courage is just as compelling as she contends with murder, adultery, incest and beyond-the-grave visits from her mother. (DT)

REVIEWS BY THE WASHINGTON POST'S **ANN HORNADAY, STEPHEN HUNTER, MICHAEL O'SULLIVAN, DESSON THOMSON** AND **TERESA WILTZ**. FOR MORE CAPSULES AND FULL REVIEWS OF THESE AND OTHER FILMS, SEE **WASHINGTONPOST.COM/ENTERTAINMENT**



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JUSTIN TIME FOR RATINGS: TV Guide Channel will relaunch its "Idol Tonight" pre-show in March, when the caterwauling contestants of "American Idol" have been cut down to 12 finalists. Former "Idol" contestant Justin Guarini will host.

Television

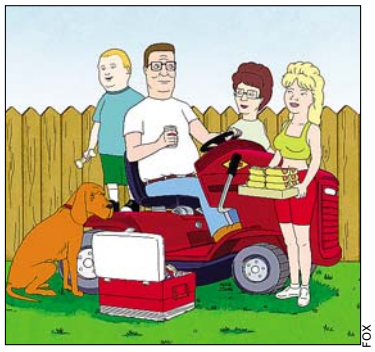
ON TV THIS WEEKEND

WELCOME BACK TO THE DARK SIDE

Since reality TV attracts extroverts, only the most peculiar and outlandish get invited back for second acts. Friday's **TRADING SPOUSES: MEET YOUR NEW MOMMY** (9 p.m., Fox) features the return of Marguerite Perrin, the self-proclaimed "God warrior," who offered a rather prolonged proclamation against the "dark side" and experienced a major meltdown in front of the cameras. Perrin used money from her first appearance to pay for gastric bypass surgery and dropped nearly 100 pounds since her last appearance. "Meet Your New Mommy" indeed.

GOD BLESS MISS AMERICA

Was the Miss America pageant the first "reality" TV show? Now the pageant itself has become a reality show. **PAGEANT SCHOOL: BECOMING MISS AMERICA** (Fri., 9 p.m., CMT) features all 52 contestants for the coveted tiara as they gather at a posh Los Angeles location to refine their looks and presentation in anticipation of the big event, airing Monday night on CMT.



FOX

A TRUE FAMILY GUY: "King of the Hill" brings heart and soul to cartoons.

A GOOD SUSPICION TO HAVE

Natalie suspects foul play after her parents' neighbors are found dead on **MONK** (Fri., 9 p.m., USA).

WHO WATCHES THIS STUFF?

The dubbed Japanese game-show comedy **MXC** (Fri., 12:30 a.m., Spike) offers its own take on Washington power brokers and the media's movers and shakers.

GRILLED LEATHER TASTES LIKE ...

Grills and gridirons commingle on **EMERIL'S FOOTBALL CONTEST** (Sat., 8 p.m., Food), followed by **SECRET LIFE OF ... TAILGATING** (9 p.m., Food).

AN ANIMATED FAMILY AFFAIR

KING OF THE HILL (Sun., 8:30 p.m., Fox) returns for its 11th season. This animated comedy's longevity is a cause for celebration. At a time when prime-time cartoons are increasingly dominated and influenced by the "Family Guy" school of nonsense satire, "King" presents character-driven comedy with heart and wit. On tonight's episode, Peggy finds a new female confidant who is more than meets the eye.

MARY POPPINS GETS HER PROPS

Oscar fans and handicappers can't miss the **13TH ANNUAL SCREEN ACTORS GUILD AWARDS** (Sun., 8 p.m., TNT). Julie Andrews will receive a lifetime achievement award.

GOLD IN THEM THAR VAULTS

Goldfinger couldn't resist it. Why should you? **FORT KNOX: SECRETS REVEALED** (Sun., 8 p.m., History) looks inside the vaults where America's gold supply resides.

I SEE DEAD, VENGEFUL PEOPLE

A murdered girl's spirit seeks justice on **THE DRESDEN FILES** (Sun., 9 p.m., Sci Fi).

FOREIGN AID WORKERS

Brutus and Cassius seek foreign support on **ROME** (Sun., 9 p.m., HBO).

INTERGALACTIC INTERROGATION

Baltar faces tough questions from a bitter crew on **BATTLESTAR GALACTICA** (Sun., 10 p.m., Sci Fi).

FOX

GOD WARRIOR: "Trading Spouses" brings back the scary yelling lady.

THE FUNNIEST WOMAN ALIVE

A caustic comic performs on **LISA LAMPANELLI: DIRTY GIRL** (Sun., 10 p.m., Comedy Central). KEVIN MCDONOUGH (UNITED FEATURE SYNDICATE)

1.26.07		6:00 PM	6:30	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
LOCAL CHANNELS	WRC 4	News CC		NBC Nightly News	Access Hollywood	1 vs. 100 (iTV) (N) CC		Las Vegas "The Story of Owe" CC		Law & Order CC		News CC	Tonight Show
	WTTG 5	Seinfeld CC	The Simpsons	The Simpsons	Seinfeld CC	Nanny 911 "McDowell Family" (N)		Trading Spouses: Meet-Mommy		News		News	Geraldo at Large
	WJLA 7	News CC	ABC Wld News	Wheel of Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Grey's Anatomy "Great Expectations"		(:01) Brothers & Sisters CC		20/20 Poor children in Camden, N.J.		News CC	(:35) Nightline
	WUSA 9	News CC	Evening News	News	Entertainment	Ghost Whisperer CC		Close to Home "A House Divided"		NUMB3RS "Two Daughters" CC		News CC	Late Show
	WDCA 20	Scrubs CC	Scrubs CC	Judge Joe Brown	Judge Judy (N)	Wicked Wicked Games (N) CC		Watch Over Me Michael finds comfort.		The Tyra Banks Show CC		Still Standing	Still Standing
	WMPT 22	The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer (N)		Business Rpt.	State Circle	Slavery and the Making of America CC (DVS)				Washington Week	NOW (N) CC	Soundstage "Peter Frampton" (N)	
	WETA 26	BBC World News	Business Rpt.	The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer (N)		Washington Week	Inside Wash.	NOW (N) CC	National Geographic's Strange Days on Planet Earth (Part 2 of 2) CC				Charlie Rose (N)
	WHUT 32	White House	Tavis Smiley	BBC World News	Moneywise	Evening Exch	To the Contrary	Frontline "The Meth Epidemic"		BBC World News	Tavis Smiley	Charlie Rose (N) CC	
	WDCW 50	My Wife and Kids	My Wife and Kids	Friends CC	Friends CC	WWE Friday Night SmackDown! (N) CC				Will & Grace	Will & Grace	Sex and the City	Sex and the City
BASIC CABLE	A&E	Crossing Jordan "Loves Me Not"		CSI: Miami "Kill Zone" CC		CSI: Miami "A Horrible Mind" CC		CSI: Miami "Camp Fear" CC		CSI: Miami "Entrance Wounds" CC		CSI: Miami "Bunk" CC	
	Animal	The Crocodile Hunter CC		The Planet's Funniest Animals CC		Meerkat Manor	Meerkat Manor	Ms. Adventure Snagging a mate. (N)		Animal Cops Houston "Deer Rescue"		The Planet's Funniest Animals CC	
	BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live Top 10 countdown. (N)			Hotwyred (N)	★★★ "Holiday Heart" (2000, Drama) Ving Rhames, Alfre Woodard. CC				Comicview CC		Jamie Foxx	Jamie Foxx
	Bravo	Real Housewives		Inside the Actors Studio CC		Top Chef CC		★★★ "The Long Kiss Goodnight" (1996) Geena Davis, Samuel L. Jackson. Premiere. CC					Long Kiss Gdnt
	Comedy	(5:00) ★ "Drive Me Crazy" (1999)		Scrubs CC	Scrubs CC	Daily Show	Colbert Report	Chappelle's Show	South Park CC	Com.-Presents	Com.-Presents	Com.-Presents	Com.-Presents
	Court	Hollywood Heat	Masterminds	Cops CC	Cops CC	Video Justice (N)	Video Justice	Forensic Files	Forensic Files	The Investigators "Mad Scientist" (N)		Dunne: Power, Privilege & Justice	
	Discovery	It Takes a Thief CC		Dirty Jobs "Vexcon" CC		Survivorman CC		Survivorman CC		Survivorman CC		Stunt Junkies	Stunt Junkies
	DISCH	Code Blue "Long Hours, Late Nights"		Impact: Stories of Survival CC		Critical Hour "Party" Youth trauma.		Dr. G: Medical Examiner (N) CC		Mystery ER (N)		Critical Hour "Party" Youth trauma.	
	Disney	Life With Derek	That's So Raven	Hannah Montana	Zack & Cody	Hannah Montana	Cory in the House	★★★ "Lilo & Stitch" (2002, Comedy) Voices of Daveigh Chase. CC				Zack & Cody	That's So Raven
	E!	Love Ride	Love Ride	E! News (N)	The Daily 10 (N)	101 Favorite Stars Way Back Then		High 90210	High 90210	The Soup (N)	Starveillance (N)	E! News	The Daily 10
	FX	King of the Hill	King of the Hill	That '70s Show	That '70s Show	That '70s Show	That '70s Show	That '70s Show	That '70s Show	That '70s Show	That '70s Show	Dirt	
	HGTV	Look What I Did!	Extreme Homes	If Walls Could	House Hunters	Designed to Sell	Buy Me	24 Hour Design	Save My Bath	House Hunters	House Hunters	Parents House	FreeStyle
	Family	Everwood "Truth ..." CC		Smallville "Fragile" CC		★★ "Stepmom" (1998, Drama) Julia Roberts, Susan Sarandon, Ed Harris. CC					Whose Line?	The 700 Club CC	
	History	Our Generation	Mail Call CC	Modern Marvels: Icebreakers CC		The Lost Evidence Allies enter Paris.		Shootout! Invasion of Okinawa. CC		Dogfights Six-Day War. (N) CC		Non-Lethal Weapons	
	Lifetime	Reba CC	Reba CC	Still Standing	Still Standing	Reba CC	Reba Bar brawl.	"The Perfect Marriage" (2006) Jamie Luner, William R. Moses. CC				Will & Grace	Will & Grace
	MTV	Maui Fever	Super Sweet	Engaged	The Hills	Dance Life	Road Rules	Real World-Road Rules: Duel Reunion		True Life "I'm a Sumo Wrestler"		Wrestling	Jackass
	NICK	Ned's School	Fairly OddParents	Fairly OddParents	Jimmy Neutron	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	Nicktoons TV	Nicktoons TV	Roseanne CC	Roseanne CC	Roseanne CC	Roseanne CC
	SCIFI	Stargate SG-1 "Threshold" CC		Heroes "Godsend" CC		The Dresden Files CC		Jake 2.0 "Prince and the Revolution"		Jake 2.0 "Double Agent" CC		Stargate SG-1 "Sight Unseen" CC	
	SPIKE	Star Trek: Voyager "Investigations"		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation CC		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation CC		★ "Waking Up in Reno" (2002) Billy Bob Thornton. Premiere.				Pros vs. Joes	
	TBS	Seinfeld CC	Seinfeld CC	Every-Raymond	Every-Raymond	★★ "Men in Black II" (2002) Tommy Lee Jones. CC			(:45) ★★ "Men in Black II" (2002) (PA) Tommy Lee Jones, Will Smith. CC				Replacements
	TLC	Property Ladder CC		Take Home Chef	Take Home Chef	What Not to Wear		What Not to Wear "Rita" (N) CC		Back to the Dance Floor		What Not to Wear "Rita" CC	
	TNT	Law & Order "Untitled" CC (DVS)		Law & Order "Thinking Makes It So"		★★ "Swordfish" (2001, Suspense) John Travolta, Hugh Jackman. CC				★★ "Swordfish" (2001, Suspense) John Travolta, Hugh Jackman. CC			
	USA	Law & Order: Criminal Intent CC		Law & Order: Criminal Intent CC		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Monk Natalie asks for Monk's help.		Psych (N) CC		House "Euphoria" CC	
	VHI	Bad Habits	Most Shocking	Paris' Most Shocking Paris Hilton.		Lindsay's Shocking Moments		Little Beauties: Kiddie Queen		Hogan Knows	Hogan Knows	Best Week Ever	I Love New York
SPAN.	TELEM	Sala de Parejas	Noti-Telemndo	Viuda de Blanco (N)		Marina (N)		Amor Mio (N)	Amor Mio	Decisiones		Noti-Telemndo	Titulares y Mas
	UNIV	Que Locura	Noticiero Univ	Duelo de Pasiones		La Fea Más Bella (N)		Mundo de Fieras (N)		Casos de la Vida Real		Primer Impacto	Noticiero Univ.
SPORTS	ESPN	SportsCenter (Live) CC		NBA Basketball Washington Wizards at Detroit Pistons. (S Live) CC					Winter X-Games (Live) CC				SportsCenter
	ESPN2	2005 World Series of Poker CC		Karate: ISKA	Boxing Friday Night Fights. (Live) CC				Tennis Australian Open -- Women's Final. From Melbourne, Australia. CC				Figure Skating
	CSN	Totally Football	SportsNite CC	NBA Basketball Washington Wizards at Detroit Pistons. (Subject to Blackout) (Live)					Wizards Post.	SportsNite (Live) CC		Gary Williams	Final Score
NEWS	CNN	Lou Dobbs Tonight CC		The Situation Room		Paula Zahn Now CC		Larry King Live CC		Anderson Cooper 360 CC			
	FNC	Special Report (Live) CC		The Fox Report With Shepard Smith		The O'Reilly Factor (Live) CC		Hannity & Colmes (Live) CC		On the Record-Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor	
	MSNBC	Tucker		Hardball CC		Countdown With Keith Olbermann		MSNBC Reports: To Catch a Predator		MSNBC Investigates		Lost Innocence Trials occur.	
MOVIES	AMC	(5:30) ★★★★ "Platoon" (1986, War) Tom Berenger, Willem Dafoe. 'R'				★★★ "Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines" (2003) Arnold Schwarzenegger.				(:15) ★★ "Black Dog" (1998, Action) Patrick Swayze, Meat Loaf. 'PG-13'			
	TCM	(5:30) ★★★ "The Prize" (1963, Suspense) Paul Newman. 'NR' CC				★★ "Paris When It Sizzles" (1964, Comedy) William Holden. Premiere. 'NR'				★★★★ "An American in Paris" (1951, Musical) Gene Kelly. 'NR' CC (DVS)			
	HBO	(5:00) Firewall	Mak. Jarhead	Inside the NFL CC		★★ "The Dukes of Hazzard" (2005) Johnny Knoxville. 'PG-13' CC				Rome Cleopatra arrives in Rome.		Extras CC	★★ Firewall CC
	MAX	Field of Dreams	MAX on Set	★★ "The Transporter 2" (2005) Jason Statham. 'PG-13'			★★★ "Red Eye" (2005) Rachel McAdams. 'PG-13' CC			★★ "Conspiracy Theory" (1997, Suspense) Mel Gibson. 'R' CC			
	SHOW	(4:45) Quicksilver	(:35) ★★ "The Longest Yard" (2005) Adam Sandler. iTV. 'PG-13' CC				Shamrock	The L Word (iTV) Tina throws a party.		Masters of Horror "Washingtonians"		The Big Black Comedy Show CC	
	TMC	(5:00) ★★ Ice 'R'	(:35) ★ "The Dust Factory" (2004) Armin Mueller-Stahl.			(:15) ★★ "The Big White" (2005, Comedy) Robin Williams. 'R' CC				★★★ "Me and You and Everyone We Know" (2005) 'R'			Team America
	STARZ!	(5:30) ★★ "Proof" (2005) 'PG-13'		(:15) ★★ "The Fog" (2005, Horror) Tom Welling. 'PG-13' CC				★★ "The Libertine" (2005, Historical Drama) Johnny Depp. 'R' CC				★★ "Wolf Creek" (2005) 'R' CC	
	ENCORE	(:15) ★★ "Revenge of the Nerds" (1984) Robert Carradine. 'R' CC				★★★ "Lethal Weapon 3" (1992, Action) Mel Gibson, Joe Pesci. 'R' CC				★★ "Money Talks" (1997) Chris Tucker. 'R' CC			(:45) The Program

Classifieds

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Activism

Save the Bay! Learn the basics of political organizing and fundraising while working with the Chesapeakee Bay Foundation. Passion for the environment and good communications skills a must. Hours M-F 1:30-10:00p.m. 395-480/wk + bonus. Call Citizens Campaigns at 202-895-0420 ext 113.

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Landover based company currently seeking an Admin Asst. Must be familiar with payroll, billing, data entry as well as Microsoft Word and Excel. Fax resume and salary requirements to 301-459-2366.

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Automotive

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AUTOMOTIVE

VOB

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V.O.B. BMW of Rockville MD, a growing BMW dealer has immediate openings for experienced Service Advisors. MD state inspection certification a big plus. We offer a great pay plan and excellent benefit package. Join our winning team! Contact Brian Blakeslee or Jack Barber at: 301-984-8989 ext 357

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Esthetician, Nail Tech and Massage Therapist.
Call 202-319-1231 or 202-882-2608.

Beauty

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Childcare — Clinton/Ft. Washington. Childcare/pre-school. PT/FT. Sr. Staff/Aide. Retirees/ Sr. Citizens welcome. Call: 301-877-8799, betw. 9a-2p, M-F.

CLERICAL

FT & PT, general office duties include: typing, mailing & faxing. Clerical exp, top salary. Call 202-204-1293

Computer Tech/Computer Repair Minor Programming

Weekends and evenings. $25/hr. Fax resumes to 301-562-9377. EOE.

Concierge/Front Desk Attendant

DC Firm seeks exp person to provide Concierge/Front Desk duties. Must possess excellent commun/comp skills, proficient in Word and Excel, Min of 3 years exp. req'd as Concierge. Call for interview 202-543-6080.

Construction

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Work for a paycheck and it's a job; do what you have apassion for and you have a career. Join our great, talented team. We seek ENTRY level technical personnel, no exp. nec. You train in our state-of-the-art facility, followed by hands-on training. Superb training at full pay on locksmithing, access control, safes. Must be familiar with tools (drill), self-starter, have common sense. Fascinating field,always in demand. **www. fedlock.com.** $15-18/hr FT.
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JOBS

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Arlington, VA 22209
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Fax: 866-589-7312
E-Mail: recruitment.cs@accessww.com

Customer Service

Advertising Coordinator

Full Time

The Washington Post is currently searching for high energy Customer Service Representatives who will work in a fast-paced, detailed oriented, team spirited environment.

Responsibilities:

- Provide service support for sales account managers and advertisers.
- Manage ad orders and materials.
- Assure accurate billing.
- Respond to both external and internal inquiries.

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The Washington Post

Attn: HR/CSR/CP
Fax - (202) 912-3677
Talentsearch@washpost.com

Customer Service

Web Support Representative

(Full Time)

The Washington Post Classified Advertising Department is recruiting for a Web Support Rep. If you have strong customer service skills, solid PC and Internet proficiency, deadline driven, and a team player, we would like to hear from you.

Responsibilities include:

- Processing of online advertisements
- Responding to the needs of advertisers;
- Reviewing ads for suitability and accuracy;
- Releasing photo ads for publication deadlines.

For information: www.washingtonjobs.com.

Send resume to: talentsearch@washpost.com and reference job code HR/WBS/CP

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JOBS

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DANCERS— Wanted for Gentleman's Club (PG County). $300-$500/night. No exp. needed. **240-286-3660 or 301-568-8500**

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Restaurant

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keyas@nrinet.com; or fax to: 202-296-6369. EOE

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The Washington Post

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Advertising

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Classifieds

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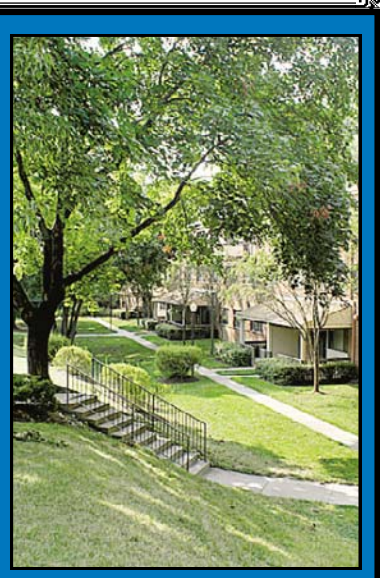

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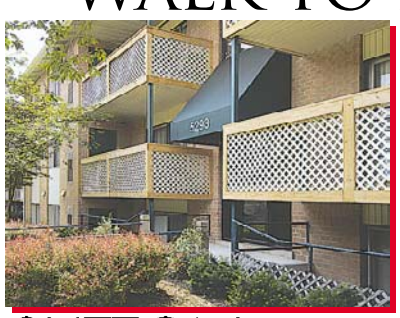

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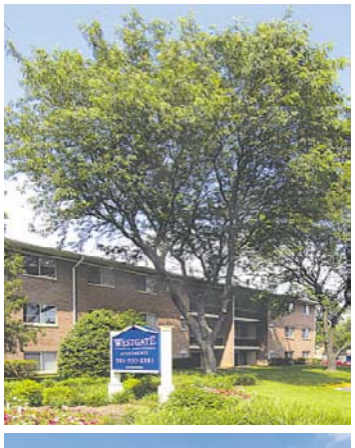

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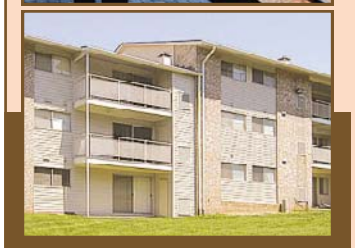

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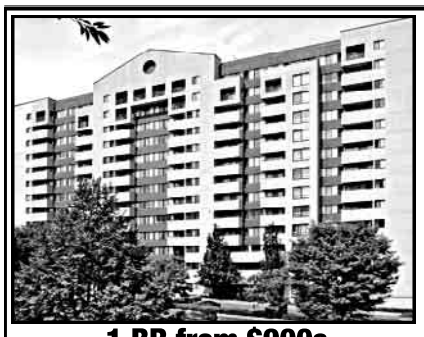

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Tantallon—$1000, 12722 Parkton, basement apartment, 1200 sf, 1br/1ba, w/d, kit, gar, utilities, yard, storage,- 202-460-1157

TEMPLE HILLS - $1495/mo 3BR 1.5BA. fin bsmt. Barry, 301-203-3402.

TEMPLE HILLS—TH, 2BA, 1BA, 2lvl, Section 8 ok. $1150. 301-203-3038

TYSONS CORNER—TH. 2 MBR. 3.5BA. newly painted. $1850/mo. Call Vinh, 703-609-4640, WRG

Tysons Corner—$1750, 2BR/2BA Spring Gate Dr, Luxury Condo, Assign Pk, Inc. wtr & grbg, 12 mnth/st lease avl, hlth Fac, pool, clb hs, bus ctr, hsi, dw, patio, hdwd, wash/dry, 703-819-6699

UPPER MARLB 3BR 1BA, small yd. $1500 202-345-7523

Upper Marlboro—Brand New Luxury 3BR, 3BA cottage at CAMERON GROVE Senior Comm. at 13104 Pettus Court w/upgrades thru-out, $2600 rent; featuring 2138 sf, loft, MB main lvl, 1 Car gar, dw, patio, carpet, wd, gas 2-sided fp, hw flrs.Cottage features access to Resort style clubhouse w/business center, aerobics, tennis, in/outdoor pool, theatre, and much more. Please call 301-233-6211 if interested.OPEN HOUSE Saturday and Sunday, January 27 & 28 from 12-4 PM. Move-in special available for limited time only.SIZABLE REFERRAL BONUS being offered!

UPPER MARLB 3lvl 2 Mstr suite, 2.5BA $1700+util avail 2/1. 202-460-4441

UPPER MARLB/HIGHLAND GATE—3 lvl TH, 2 mstr suites, lge 2-car, w/o bsmt/deck, $1800. Open House Sun. 1-4. 501-247-7464

UPPER MARLBORO—2BR 2.5BA condo, FP, 1 Car Gar, End unit, 2lvl, high ceiling, bay windows, 202-251-1455

Vienna—Eng Bsmt, pvt entr, sep kit & bath, 1250 sq ft, light, avail 2/1, $950 incl utils, 703-242-3056

Waldorf—2775 Wrangler Ct, SFH, 4 BR, 3.5 BA, 2 Car, 202-439-2535. $2600

Waterfront—Lovely 2 BR/2BA Duplex, in luxury co-op, $1900, near metro/grocery, Call 202-488-8428.

WHEATON—Furn/Unfurn Eff. starting at $695. Nr metro/schools/churches, Wheaton West Field Mall. Carpet, Drapes, Laundry/Trash rms thruout! Min to Dwntwn Rckvlle & Sil Spg. 301-942-6001, Appt.

WOODBRIDGE—Beaut 3BR/1FBA, new flrs/paint, lg bkyd, CAC, dw, w/d, $1250+utils 202-431-2494

WOODBRIDGE - New Year's Special. 4 homes for rent. Pets ok. Call for details. $1295, $1300 & $1475. 703-674-7923/7924.

Woodley Park—$2,500, 2829 Conn, Furnished apt, 1 br, 1 ba, top Fl, Parking, utilities incl., hlth fac, swim pool, great kitch. & bath, balc, nr metro, hw flrs, free HD TV & wireless internet. Bose audio sys. Great views of the city. 202-409-3994.

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ALEX—Furnished room, share elec, $390/mo, security deposit $100. **703-360-4569**

ALEX—Non smoking SFH, 1 furn'd BR w/pvt BA, no pets, $800/mo utils incl. & cable 703-317-1815

ALEX— NS prof shr 4BR, 2.5 ba SFH nr Metro. Incl amens. Pkg. Fr $750. 703 313-8339 or wecollins@gmail.com

ALEX—Room w/full BA & lg clst in furn 2BR 2BA apt. Free pkng. Min to 395. Free shuttle to metro. Advance amen. $700 incl utils. 703-845-0828, 703-839-2445.

Alexandria—$600.00, M/F shr slt lvl SFH Prvt bed & bath, lower lvl, lvng area w/fireplc optnl, 703-624-2324

ANNAPOLIS — 2BR 2BA SFH to shr at Arundel on The Bay! N/S, Pvt Beach/Pier $1400/mo 410-216-7036

ARL— Shr hse. Walk Ballston Metro. Immed. Rms $575. Rm $650/$695 + Utl. **703-599-7572**

Arlington North—NS F 2 shr SFH nr EFC Metro own lv room, ba 625 +1/3 util no pets. 703-532-8685.

BETH/NIH—Prof M shr 4 BR hse; furn rm; 3 windows; fridge; TV; VCR; CAC; W/D; no pets; avail 2/1. $730 inc ph/utils/cbl. 301-530-8947

Bowie—$675.00, 4201 Northview Dr, 1 br, 1 ba, heat, water, elec, garbage, 2022550852

BOWIE —NS prof Female to share TH, private BRs, private Baths, $600+⅓ utils. 301-390-1172

Cap Hghts & Lanham—Rms. $160/wk 202-330-7265 or 301-336-9257

CAP HGTS—off Addison Rd. Rooms avail, shr. kitchen. N/S, no pets. From $500/mo. 240-305-3618

Centreville—1 Br. in nice TH close to Rts 66, 29, 28. Tranquil Envir. No pets, No Smk. Call 703-732-0400

CENTREVILLE—TH to shr, close to 28 & 29 & Union Mill Shppng Ctr. $600/mo. Call 703-266-8645

Clinton—$650. 3604 Sego Rd, 3 br, 2 ba home to shr, ac, cable, net, heat, water, elec, w/d rec rm. included. 301-996-3941. 2 rooms avail.

College Park—2 rms-$550 & 450, shr bath, all utls, free hi-spd internet, UofM busline, near CP Metro, 301-345-5582, Beautiful, Quiet Park-like setting, Professionals only

DISTRICT HEIGHTS—1 room for rent in apt to shr. Nr metro/shops/bus. W/D. $650 all utils incl. 240-478-5418

Faircrest—$900, TH deluxe mstr bedrm w/luxury bath, nr publc trnsp., shop. cntrs & maj hiways. parking & util. incl. (301)455-2017

Fairfax County—$575, 3blocks f/ mason univrsity, 1br, shrd bath, all utilits + internt includ, 703 899 6227

FAIRFAX—House to shr, 1BR 1½BA, use of rec rm, wlkg dist. to Vienna Metro, utils incl. $600. Call 703-281-1481 after 2pm

FAIRFAX—Laundry & Kit priv., 2 blks from Q bus, ½ mi to GM Univ. $525. 703-273-1220

FALLS CHURCH—1 furn BR avail in house to shr. Cls to 495/66/50/29 & metro. $485 incl util. SATV & Wifi. F pref. 202-230-7557

FALLS CHURCH— 3BR, 2BA Avail. $600,$700,$900 Inclds Utils . All new. Nr Metro. N/S 703-845-1984

FORT WASH—Furn rm for rent. Starting at $100-200/wk. Beaut home to shr. Bus/Metro Acces,All utils + cable incl. 301-219-3234, lve msg, we will return calls promptly.

FT WASH—Furn room in house. Utils incl. Shr LR, DR. From $150&up weekly/monthly. 703-856-6075

GAINESVILLE—Lg beaut hse w/mstr BR & pvt BA, hot tub. $725 + utils. Avail 2/1. 703-244-7132

GAITH—F for TH. Furn MBR. pvt BA. Shr kit/DR/LR, nr I-270, Ext 11, Mall, Bus. $750 utils incl. 240-671-2650

Glen Burnie—m/f nonsmk prof.to rent lg bsmt room/private ba. $650/m all utl incl. 240-426-8629

Great Falls—$675/780 1 Rm or 2 Rm Suite, Priv Bath, 4 Wooded Acres, Quiet Prof Fem Only 571-344-2032

HERNDON/DULLES—2 rooms, 1 Lg/pvt BA, 1 Sm/shr'd BA, in TH furn'd, for NS prof, incls cable, utils & maid service. $750 & $575, +1 mo sec dep. 703-606-3285

HYATTSVILLE — Room available for F in shared TH, behind FeDex Field, close to Blue line Metro & PG Commun College. $500 incl utls. Call 301-920-4097

Kingstowne—$500.00/mo kingstone,va roommate for basement bedroom with walk-in closet and private full bath.utilities included contact 703-606-3194 --mitch

LANHAM — 2 rms avail in shared home avail immed. $500 & $400 incls utils. Call 301-459-8345.

Leesburg—Roommate $700 2 rms furn bedrm for professional private bath util included, deposit req. NO pets/smoking Call Karen 571-438-8088

LORTON—NS M/F for rm in TH to shr, W/D, kit privs, avail. immed. $425 + sec depos. 202-746-1137

MANASSAS/BRISTOW— Lrg SFH to shr. Pvt BA. $600 incl utils. Call 703-624-4450

MT. RAINIER—Room for Male congenial house, $495. 301-652-6554

New Carrollton/Hyattsville— 1 BR in shr'd hse. Wlk to Metro. $500 incl utls. Call Chuck, 301-577-0373

New Carrollton/Hyattsville— 1 BR in shr'd hse. Wlk to Metro. $500 incl utls. Call Chuck, 301-577-0373

OAKTON—Sm. furn. BR in lrg 3lvl TH to shr nr I66 & Metro. $500 incl. utils. Avl now. 703-281-0659

SEAT PLEASANT—Beaut quiet 4BR hse to shr., N/S, nr Metro. $600 mo+ cable, all utils. 301-336-8735

SEVEN CORNERS—Bsmt rm, pvt entr., pvt BA. $500 703-403-9097

SIL SPG—House to share, room available, F only, professional. 301-384-2637 Avail. immed.

SIL SPG—Male for lg BR in shared hse. pvt entrance to BA. 3 blks from Metro. $600+ ¼ utils. 240-606-5067

SIL SPG—Shr SFH, BR avail., nr Glenmont, Metro, shpg & park. $600 mo. Call Phil, 301-949-5014.

SILVER SPRING—2 separate basement rooms for rent with Living Room. Share Bath & kitchen. Utilities included. $650/mo 240-491-7405

SILVER SPRING/White Oak—N/S M/F, to shr furnished 3Br Hi rise apt
Children welcome. 301-213-8787

SILVER SPRING/Glenmont—Lge BR w/pvt BA, $585 mo incl all utils. Call 703-868-2839

SPGFLD/SARATOGA—Prof F to shr hse w/same. Huge MBR, 300 s.f., newly renov., pvt BA. Many amens. Safe, quiet, neighb. all utils/Net/Cable/Phone incl. $750. 703-372-2726

SPRGFLD—TH to shr, Lrg bsmt. w/full priv. BA avail., w/d, $650 incl util. No pets, N/S. Call 703-981-7604

SPRGFLD W/SARATOGA—Huge bsmnt apt in SFH to shr. Pvt entr, patio. New prvt kit & BA. Many ammens. HI spd, cable, W/D. $1,300/mo incl utils. 703-372-2726

SPRINGFLD—M shr quiet older hse in wooded area, convenient, nsmkr pref'd. $425+ util. 703-569-1543

STERLING — Bring your suitcase & come live with the 3 of us & our pets in our **BIG BEAUTIFUL SFH** in classy neighborhood. Furn pvt BR & BA, cable TV, access to nearly entire hse w/ huge kit & deck **BIG SCREEN TV** perfect for movies & sports. Great location off Rte 7, nr Pkwy, Toll Rd., shpg. M/F. $800 mo includes rent, utils, cable & food.
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TAKOMA PARK— Prof M/F, N/S, shr apt. $490-$550/rm. Unfurn. All utils incl. Hardwood flrs., off-st-prkg, nice views to Sligo Creek, park & trails. Call **CJ, (651) 226-5658**

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VIENNA—House to shr. Close to 66 & Metro, wlk out bsmt, sec. dep. req. $650/mo ut. incl. No smkg. No pets. 703-938-3913

WALDORF—Like new TH, 3BR 1½BA, immaculate, new crpt & hwd flrs & fridge. 703-683-0583

WOODBRIDGE— 2 rms Avail in SFH. $550 each incld. utils + cable 571-277-1071

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ALEX- $335k, Huntngtn Clb. No Car Req CTH 2lvl/3BR/3BA, 1415sf, Opn Flr Pln, 100% Upgrd, W/D, Jacu. Nr Metro. MLS#FX6255884 Map 24D7.www.abundantabodes.com Ginger 703-304-5523 ReMax

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Lg 2BR 1½BA W/D in unit, top flr, great views. 1415 Chapin st unit #506 NW M. Sylvester 202-747-4273 Senate Realty

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Det brk 4BR, 2BA, 4 lvl, gar, fin bsmt Barry, 301-203-3402 Re/Max Col.

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MERCEDES 94 S500 AMG Cpe—Blk, Gry int, 130k, New tires, Excel Cond, N/S, Oil chng/brks, Insp, Lorenzo Whls. $14,500. **202-257-8833**

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Oldsmobile 2001 Alero—$5700 obo, good cond, 71k mi, Gold, tan int, 4 dr, alloys, dual air bags, AM/FM/CD, cruise, new tires. 202.577.9491

PONT '97 FORMULA— Red, 94K mi, Florida Car. No rust. Good cond. V8, $6200/obo. 703-528-1225

Pontiac 2005 G6—GT, 4dr Sedan, $16500 obo, OnStar, mint cond, 10k mi, Metallic Gray/Blue ext, sport package, panoramic sunrf, many options, 6 CD, 703-598-5359

Subaru 2003 Baja—Burgundy, 48k mi, manual, loaded, exc cond, maint up-to-date, new detail, premium sound $13,500/OBO 2405151732

SUBARU '97 Impreza Outback Wagon—AWD, 5-sp, great condition & mpg, red, $2500. Call 703-971-3023

TOYOTA '03 COROLLA CE—4 dr, auto, am/fm CD, Dk blue, excel cond. 68kmi, $7500/obo. 703-409-8002

Toyota 2002 RAV4—$11,850, great cond, well maintain., 43k mi, 2WD, manual, Silver, power pkg, CD, alloy wheels, keyless entr, 202-251-6177

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Nicole in car accident, but she's OK | 50

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Food?

Haggis proves that Scotland has a reason to be brave

Take heart, liver and lung of sheep, roll in oatmeal, add pepper and stuff into beef intestine. Boil for four hours until "warm-reekin' rich."

Enjoy.

A skeptical world is catching on to the charms of the humble haggis, according to producers of the essential delicacy for Thursday's Burns Night celebrations, this year marking the 248th anniversary of the poet Robert Burns' birth.

"Some people recoil at the thought of the stuff, but I've never met someone who didn't like it after they tasted it," said master butcher Neil Watt of Watt the Butcher in Montrose, on the Scottish east coast.

"I used to work at the Savoy in London and put it on the menu as a delicacy. As far as I am concerned, it is a gourmet dish to savor. It is nonsense to say it is bad for you; it is a healthy, traditional dish."

Haggis producers are reporting record sales as the traditional Scottish dish is served at leading hotels, the Orient Express and even an upmarket pizza restaurant chain. Macsween haggis made in Edinburgh has been available at Harrods department store in London since the late 1980s.

> "It is a versatile food, as a stuffing, in a toastie, in lasagne or, my personal favorite, with tzatziki in pita bread"
>
> **SUE LAWRENCE**, AUTHOR

It was a staple of the poorest in Scotland — Highland "crofters" and Lowland "cottars" — in the 1700s and 1800s, and the meal was immortalized by Burns in his poem "Address to a Haggis" which hailed the dish as a "glorious sight."

Now each year Burns Societies and Scottish societies around the world mark the bard's birth with Burns Night suppers on Jan. 25, where the haggis is served with "tatties" (potatoes), "bashed neeps" (turnip/swede/rutabaga) and a drop or two of Scotch whisky.

The haggis is paraded into the room, accompanied by a piper, and the reading of Burns' tribute to the haggis is an essential part of the night:

"Fair fa' your honest, sonsie face,/"Great chieftain o the puddin'-race!/"Aboon them a' ye tak your place,/"Painch, tripe, or thairm:/"Weel are ye wordy of a grace/"As lang's my arm ..."

Because of restrictions related to fear of a form of mad cow disease, many Scottish societies in North America use alternatives to the traditional haggis, substituting chicken, venison or canned products that do not include offal.

For those who like haggis with a modern twist, Macsween's product is now also being served in a special pizza at the Pizza Express chain in Britain.

MARTIN CLEAVER/AP

YUMMY IN THE TUMMY: Scottish master butcher Neil Watt inspects a haggis.

Stomach Surprise

"I receive dozens of calls from America each week looking to buy haggis, but I just cannot supply it," said Jo Macsween, of the second generation of the Macsween family business.

"There's a real mixed reaction in the States. While there is a lot of demand for the product, some Americans are really aghast at the contents," she said. "But I remind them of the ingredients of the average hot dog and the process of extracting that meat, then point out that haggis is actually more wholesome."

Food writer and chef Sue Lawrence devotes an entire chapter to haggis in her book "A Cook's Tour of Scotland." She believes haggis has shaken off its old image, thanks to the work of some of Scotland's top butchers.

"A good butcher-made haggis is a joy, not too greasy as many butchers are decreasing their fat content nowadays and a nice touch of all round spice, predominantly pepper, and a good texture from pinehead or rough oatmeal," she said.

"It is a versatile food, not just with tatties and neeps, but also as a stuffing, in a toastie, in lasagne or, my personal favorite, with tzatziki [Greek yogurt and garlic dip] in pita bread."

If the thought of eating sheep's offal is too much, Macsween produces a vegetarian haggis. The dish, made with kidney beans and lentils, accounts for almost 25 percent of annual sales. BEN MCCONVILLE (AP)

Wes Greenway's Alexandria

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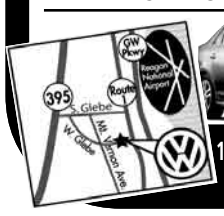

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Honoring Fallen Employees

METRO | Regardless of what one might think of Metro's workplace safety record, there's no doubt that the transit agency's new scholarship honoring the memory of employees who have died on the job is a touching and thoughtful move.

The fund benefits the dependent children of the deceased, who can receive up to $5,000 a year up to a $25,000 maximum for "tuition, books, student fees or room and board at eligible educational institutions that include four-year colleges, community colleges and some technical/trade schools," according to the transit agency.

Metro's board authorized the creation of the fund last year, jump-starting it with a $100,000 contribution.

The transit agency is seeking additional funds from Metro employees, their unions and contributions from the general public — which are tax deductible — to keep the fund supplied with cash.

The fund is being administered by the Community Foundation for the National Capital Region.

Since October 2005, four workers have been killed on the tracks. The most recent fatal accident was in November on the Yellow Line.

If you want to contribute, checks should be made out to the Metro Memorial Scholarship Fund/CFNCR and mailed to Starlette Hunter, Community Foundation for the National Capital Region, 1201 15th St NW, Suite 420, Washington, DC 20005. MICHAEL GRASS (EXPRESS)

CAROL GUZY/TWP

AID: Metro's new scholarship would help the children of workers killed on the job.

New in Brookland

NEIGHBORHOODS | The Northeast D.C. neighborhood of Brookland has a new hangout: Cardinal's Nest, at 3748 10th St. NE. According to the coffee shop's MySpace page, there's food for "vegans, vegetarians and carnivores," free wireless access and more than 200 electrical outlets. It's two blocks from the Brookland-CUA Metro station on the Red Line. M.G.

➜ Coming Up Today

D.C. Council member Jim Graham's plan to bar minors from the city's music clubs has stirred debate.

Poll Center

TODAY'S QUESTION

Has No Child Left Behind improved schools in the U.S.?

1. Yes
2. No

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Is a nonbinding Senate vote on Iraq a waste of time?

YES	NO
57%	43%

As of 6:15 p.m. Thursday. Not a scientific poll.

GIVE YOUR OPINION ON TODAY'S POLL QUESTION AND GET A STATION-BY-STATION BREAKDOWN OF HOW YOUR FELLOW METRORAIL COMMUTERS VOTED AT READEXPRESS.COM/POLLCENTER.PHP

THE Blog LOG

"Can you imagine losing $12.7 billion? ... [N]o one above middle management there should be taking a salary until the company breaks even."

COMPLAINTHUB.COM IS FLABBERGASTED BY FORD MOTOR CO.'S GLOOMY FINANCIAL FUTURE.

A Canadian Split

"The result would be a resetting of the clock, with a new league that is satisfied to be a popular sport in Canada and in niche markets in the United States and ignored everywhere else in North America."

CANUCKSCORNER.COM THINKS NHL TEAMS IN CANADA SHOULD LEAVE AND FORM THEIR OWN LEAGUE, LETTING THE NHL DIE.

No More Quilt Coats!

"If I see one more quilt coat, I am going to kill myself. They are SO ugly. And SO unprofessional. It just yells, 'I hate being awake. I would rather be in bed, underneath another ugly quilt-like blanket.'"

CHATANDCHAI.BLOGSPOT.COM IS INCREASINGLY INTOLERANT OF QUILT COATS, WHICH HAVE BEEN SCARRING THE STREETS OF NEW YORK CITY.

AP

G'Day to You

"I've been here three years, loved every minute of it. Well, not every minute. ... You've given me a great place to live and even snow on my birthday every year. But now, it's time to say goodbye and get ... to Sydney. Because it's 86 degrees there and it's sunny."

KSTREETBLUES.BLOGSPOT.COM IS LEAVING WASHINGTON FOR AUSTRALIA, WHERE IT IS SUMMERTIME.

An Odd Re-Education

"I have read Isaiah Washington is entering a treatment center to address his 'issues.' I didn't know there was a facility for people who have homophobia. Will Isaiah be seeking spiritual guidance from RuPaul?"

PRETTYONTHEOUTSIDE.TYPEPAD.COM WONDERS WHY THE "GREYS ANATOMY" STAR HAD TO ENTER TREATMENT FOR CALLING A FELLOW ACTOR ON THE SHOW A DEROGATORY WORD.

DON'T

PUNISH YOUR RAT FOR CHEWING ON STUFF. This won't stop it, as it's part of its "instinctive" behavior, advises the Rat Fan Club (ratfanclub.org). Otherwise, rats are great pets, the group wants you to know. Look no further than its Rat of the Week.

Live Online

The Wizards

ERNIE GRUNFELD, the Washington Wizards' president of basketball operations, took questions on Thursday at washingtonpost.com on his division-leading team.

Do you ever read a column by one of the NBA writers and think, "That trade does sound good"? Or do you primarily rely on your own staff for information and rumors?

The more information that you have and the more ideas that you talk about, then the better off you are as an organization. It is always good to get as many viewpoints as possible, whether it is provided internally or externally. You never know when a certain idea can possibly spark something else.

Why do the Wizards have so much trouble playing defense? Which two areas of defense can the team improve upon?

Defense is something we are constantly talking about and we all realize myself, our coaches and players, that this is an area that we want to improve in. It is a process and we continue to work at it on a daily basis. Two points we are trying to work on are ball containment and not allowing easy baskets in the paint.

What are your views on high school players and the new NBA rule requiring high school seniors to wait one year before entering the draft?

I really like the new rule. I would not mind having the current high school players stay in college for two years instead of one year. It's a major adjustment to be able to contribute on the NBA level, not only from a physical standpoint but also on emotionally level.

You have brought in players who add toughness to this team: Caron Butler, Antonio Daniels, DeShawn Stevenson. Was toughness something you specifically looked for?

Toughness is something that we looked for and that is an important quality for your team to have — not just physical toughness but mental toughness as well.

TODAY ON LIVE ONLINE: The Washington Post's Warren Brown gives his take on the Washington Auto Show at 11 a.m. | **washingtonpost.com/liveonline**

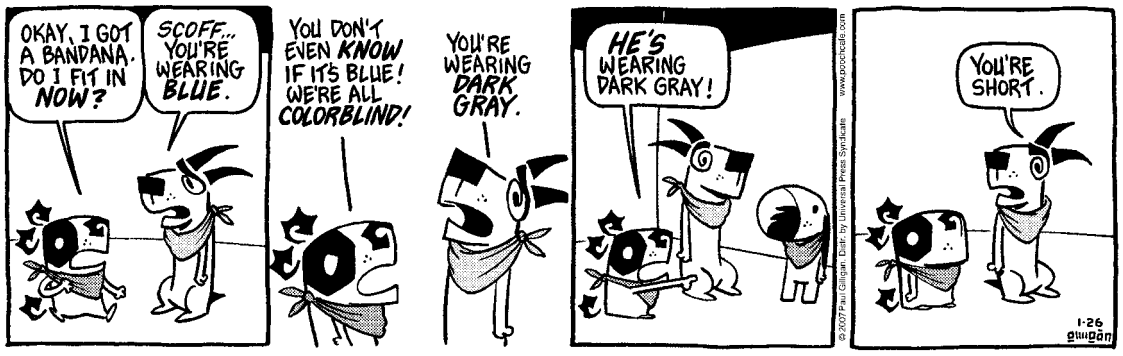
Look out

Bizarro | *Dan Piraro*

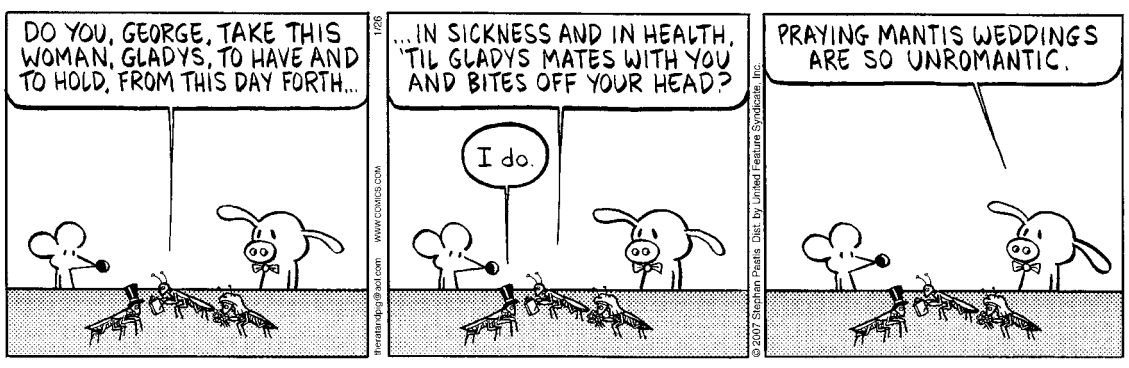
Cornered | *Mike Baldwin*

"STAY!"

Pooch Cafe | *Paul Gilligan*



Pearls Before Swine | *Stephan Pastis*



The Duplex | *Glenn McCoy*

Horoscope

By Stella Wilder

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Someone may be trying to set a trap for you, but you're too smart to be outsmarted — or are you? Don't get cocky.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) You may not be finished with a job until you tend to one piece of business you've actually been trying to avoid for some time. Get to it.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Your powers of self-control will certainly be called upon throughout the day. Take care, however, you don't try to be too aloof.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) You and a friend are likely to disagree most adamantly about something that may actually have been common ground not too long ago. Talk it out.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Take care you aren't so concerned with your own well-being that you ignore the call of someone who is in real need of your attention.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) You're going to have to proceed carefully, according to a few strictly regulated steps. Do things in order — and on schedule.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Take care you're not so eager to retreat from a challenge that you're unwilling to face something that poses no real threat. Judge carefully.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You are in need of a little emotional healing at this time. A busy schedule and a low energy cycle combine to keep you feeling vulnerable.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) You'll receive an important message from someone far from home. Listen or read carefully — and don't be too quick to judge the news.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) A little wear and tear never hurt anyone, and you can show your true strength by sticking with something until the bitter end. Go the distance.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) There's no reason for the rules you've recently made, and no one is likely to obey them anyway. Remember the adage: If you can't beat them, join them.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Someone's attentions may actually seem smothering. Make sure others respect your emotional needs and your personal space.

Letters

In Support of Spiting Stars

IN RESPONSE TO "Celeb Headlines Too Mean" (Jan. 25), I just wanted to proclaim my appreciation for the headlines in Express, particularly those in People. One of the bright spots in my morning commute is indulging in the witty jabs taken at the celebrity sponges that soak up far too much of the national spotlight. Seriously, if I'm going to have to read about how Lindsay Lohan has entered rehab in news sources everywhere, I'd prefer it to have a humorous tagline like "12 Clubs Go Under." Keep it up and keep it funny.

—MATT SCHNIEDERS
Herndon, Va.

WRITE TO EXPRESS: Include name, hometown and telephone number. Submissions may be edited. E-mail to inbox@readexpress.com or mail to Express Letters, PO Box 17370, Arlington, VA 22216.

Today in History

1788 The first European settlers in Australia, led by Capt. Arthur Phillip, land in present-day Sydney.

1841 Britain formally occupies Hong Kong, which the Chinese had ceded to the British.

1907 Congress passes the Tillman Act, which prohibited corporations from making direct campaign contributions to federal election candidates.

1950 India officially proclaims itself a republic as Rajendra Prasad takes the oath of office as president.

1997 The Green Bay Packers beat the New England Patriots 35-21 to win their first Super Bowl in 29 years.

AMY SANCETTA/AP

Green Bay Packer Desmond Howard returns a 99-yard kickoff return in 1997.

Look out | People

LUCAS JACKSON/AP

Brandy was treated for minor injuries.

ACCIDENTS

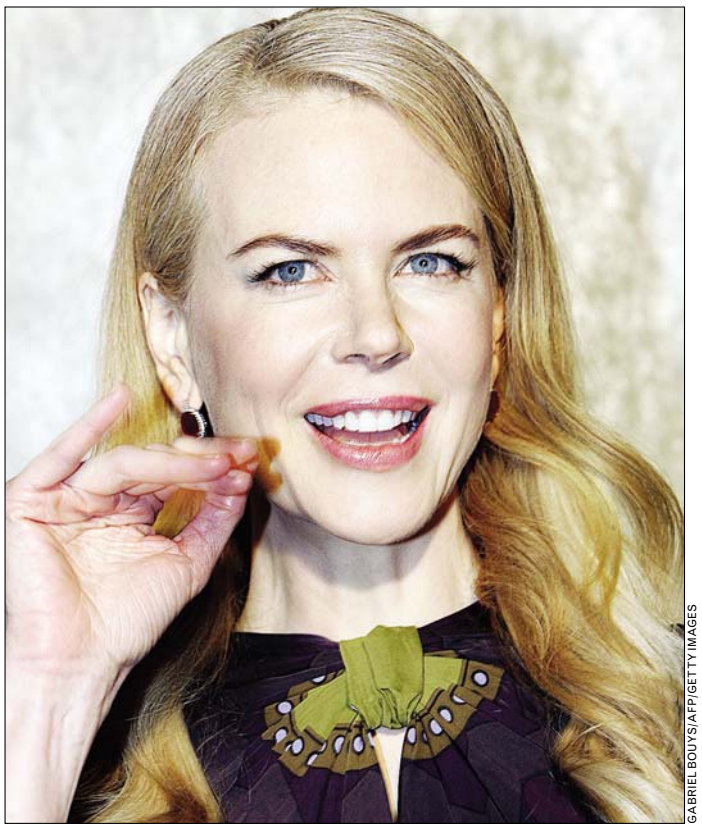
Brandy Crash Kills One

BRANDY was involved in a four-car freeway crash last month that left a 38-year-old woman dead, authorities said Wednesday. The cause of the mishap was under investigation; no arrests have been made. Brandy was driving a 2007 Land Rover on Dec. 30, when she failed to slow down and struck the back of a 2005 Honda. (AP)

HUH?

There's No 12-Step Program for Being a Jerk

ISAIAH WASHINGTON is in therapy for his use of an anti-gay slur against a castmate: "I regard this as a necessary step toward understanding why I did what I did and making sure it never happens again." (AP)



GABRIEL BOUYS/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

RELIEF

Nicole Survives

NICOLE KIDMAN was taken to a Los Angeles hospital after the Jaguar she was in crashed Thursday during downtown shooting of "The Invasion." Kidman, 39, was examined, then released a short time later. The Jaguar was being towed by a camera rig that skidded while taking a corner and caused Kidman's car to hit a pole on West Sixth Street. (AP)

BAD OMENS

Ben Affleck Shouldn't Read Too Much Into This

Losing Ben's diamond ring bodes ill.

JENNIFER GARNER revealed a secret Wednesday that she'd been keeping from Ben Affleck: She nearly lost a ring he gave her after the birth of their 1-year-old daughter, Violet. Garner said the mishap occurred while she was primping for a movie premiere. "He gave me this beautiful diamond ring and I was playing with it and ... it fell off. And it fell into the drain under this icemaker," she said on "Live With Regis and Kelly." A plumber came and rescued the ring. (AP)

SPOUSES

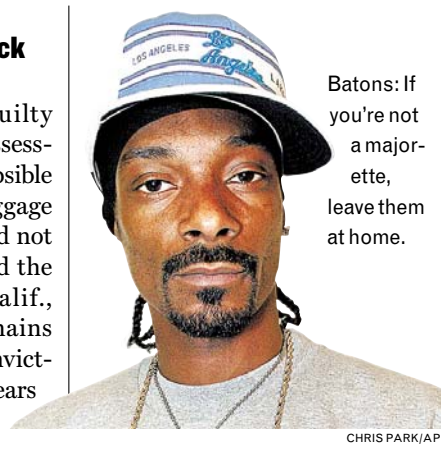
Meanwhile, Mr. Kidman ...

KEITH URBAN will launch the North American leg of his world tour June 8 in Phoenix, marking his return to U.S. concert stages after undergoing treatment for alcohol abuse. "I'm looking forward to getting back on the road," Urban said in a statement released Thursday. (AP)

SCREENING

And, He Might Have Snuck Shampoo on the Plane!

SNOOP DOGG pleaded not guilty Wednesday to a charge of possessing a deadly weapon, a collapsible police baton found in his luggage at an airport. The rapper did not attend as his lawyer entered the plea in Orange County, Calif., Superior Court, and he remains free on $150,000 bail. If convicted, he could face up to three years in prison. (AP)



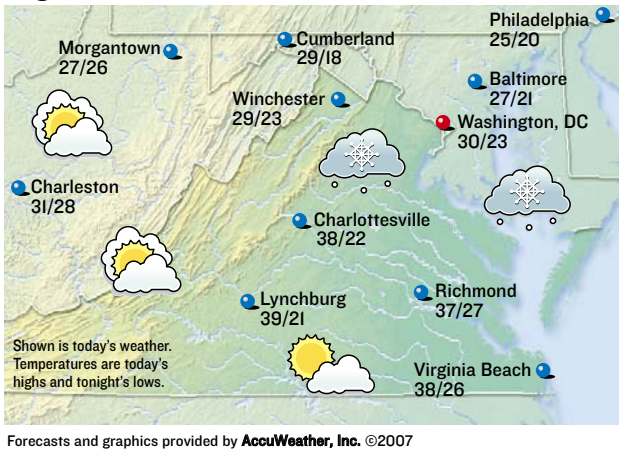
Batons: If you're not a majorette, leave them at home.

CHRIS PARK/AP

5 Day Forecast for the Washington Area

Today	Tonight	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
Partly sunny	Partly cloudy	Partly sunny	Partly sunny	Partly sunny	Mostly sunny
30°	23°	47° / 31°	43° / 23°	33° / 19°	33° / 21°

Regional Weather



Forecasts and graphics provided by **AccuWeather, Inc.** ©2007

Almanac

Washington, D.C., through 4 p.m. Thur.

Temperature

High	39°
Low	33°
Normal high	43°
Normal low	27°
Average humidity	48%

Precipitation

24 hours ending 4 p.m.	Trace
Month to date	2.41"
Normal month to date	2.61"
Year to date	2.41"
Last year to date	2.82"
Normal year to date	2.61"

For up-to-the-minute weather, see: **washingtonpost.com/weather**

Regional Forecast

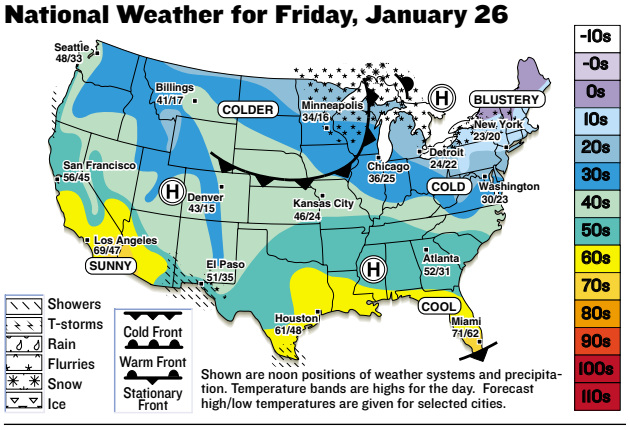
D.C. Metro: Today, morning flurries, otherwise partly sunny. High 30. Wind northwest 10-20 mph. Tonight, mostly clear. Low 23.

Sun and Moon

Sunrise today	7:20 a.m.
Sunset tonight	5:22 p.m.
Moonrise today	11:23 a.m.
Moonset today	1:14 a.m.

Full	Last	New	First
Feb 2	Feb 10	Feb 17	Feb 24

National Weather for Friday, January 26



Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day. Forecast high/low temperatures are given for selected cities.

National Cities

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Sat. Hi/Lo/W
Atlanta	52/31/s	59/37/pc
Boston	15/11/c	28/25/pc
Chicago	36/25/pc	30/15/sf
Dallas	60/44/s	50/33/r
Denver	43/15/s	25/10/sf
Honolulu	79/67/s	80/67/s
Los Angeles	69/47/s	65/48/pc
Miami	71/62/pc	77/68/pc
New York City	23/20/pc	37/33/pc
Orlando	64/40/s	73/57/pc
Seattle	48/33/pc	46/35/s

World Cities

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Sat. Hi/Lo/W
Amsterdam	43/36/r	41/36/sn
Athens	63/50/c	61/45/pc
Berlin	32/27/sn	32/25/c
Buenos Aires	84/70/sh	86/68/pc
Calgary	29/8/s	25/14/pc
Dublin	45/36/pc	48/39/pc
Geneva	28/19/pc	30/22/c
Moscow	16/9/c	13/13/sn
Rome	48/39/sh	46/37/s
Sydney	78/68/pc	74/65/pc
Tokyo	50/42/pc	56/44/s

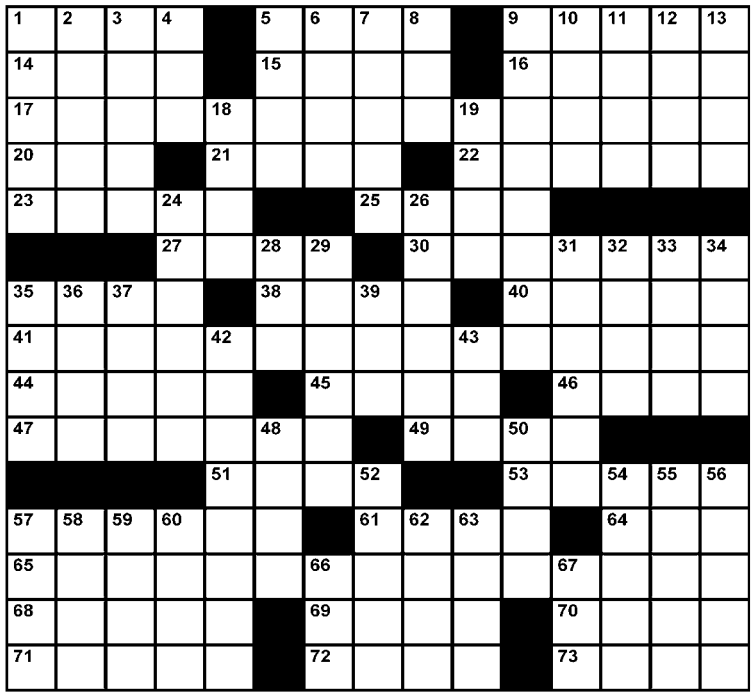
s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.

Look out

Going Down

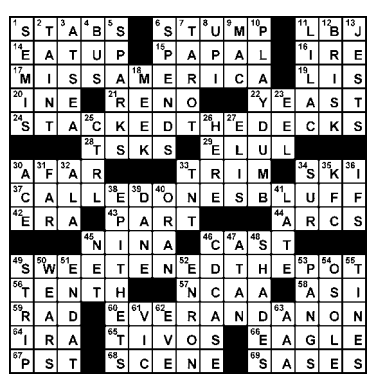
ACROSS
1 Water source
5 Choir recess
9 At the stern
14 On the sheltered side
15 "Jail" or "pot" lead-in
16 Contrite
17 Reward a touchdown, e.g.
20 Holm of "Chariots of Fire"
21 Site of a shipwreck, perhaps
22 Supply with oxygen
23 Swing Era drummer
25 Citizen of Helsinki
27 Soldier's necessity, briefly
30 Radar antenna housings
35 Related by blood
38 Approximately
40 Escape
41 Phrase of hospitality
44 Starters, in sports
45 Sunday utterance
46 Covered with hoarfrost, e.g.
47 Hang in there
49 Bust
51 Puck's occupation
53 One sans permanent address
57 Honor for a footballer
61 Of churchgoers
64 Exist
65 Emulate a slacker
68 "He was a bold man that first ___ oyster" (Swift)
69 Tibia, for one
70 Broadway stinkeroo
71 144
72 Last-minute academic activity
73 Donkey's sound

DOWN
1 Type of eye surgery
2 Site for some rites
3 Reeves of "Speed"
4 Poetic time of day
5 Shivering fit
6 Pontiff
7 Type of car, nurse or sergeant
8 Longest time
9 One rising in rank, e.g.
10 1922 physics Nobelist Niels
11 Two-dimensional measurement
12 Pace up and down
13 Old Phoenician capital
18 Small amount of liquor
19 Comedian Carvey
24 Zoo favorites
26 One with pressing duties?
28 Do a landscaping chore
29 Highly decorated
31 Go to an extreme
32 Landlocked African country
33 Red-coated cheese
34 Fit for a pinup
35 Without delay, in a memo
36 Its tail flaps in the wind
37 Anatomical passage
39 Ted's role on "Cheers"
42 Some letters of the Greek alphabet
43 Genetic material
48 Demonstrate
50 Foot fraction
52 Type of model
54 Key designation
55 Kitchen enticer
56 "You Light Up My Life" singer Boone
57 Shake ___ (hurry)
58 Pinocchio type
59 Mother of Apollo and Artemis
60 Modern electronic organizers, for short
62 "The King and I" schoolteacher
63 Checklist unit
66 Major broadcaster
67 Recede, as the tide



EDITED BY TIMOTHY E. PARKER

Yesterday's Solution



Su|do|ku

Degree of Difficulty: HARD

Fill in the boxes so each row, column and 3-by-3 square includes the digits 1 through 9. For solution, tips and computer program, see www.sudoku.com

Need more Su|do|ku?
Find another Sudoku puzzle in the Comics section of the Post every Sunday and in the Style section every Monday through Saturday.

Yesterday's Solution

1	5	3	4	6	8	7	2	9
9	8	6	2	3	7	1	4	5
2	7	4	5	1	9	3	6	8
8	2	7	3	9	1	6	5	4
6	1	5	7	8	4	9	3	2
3	4	9	6	2	5	8	1	7
4	9	1	8	5	6	2	7	3
5	6	2	9	7	3	4	8	1
7	3	8	1	4	2	5	9	6

		6	4		5			
4	2		8			6		
	8	3						
	9				8			5
		4				2		
3			1				4	
						1	2	
		8			2		6	7
			3		7	8		

© PUZZLES BY PAPPOCOM

express

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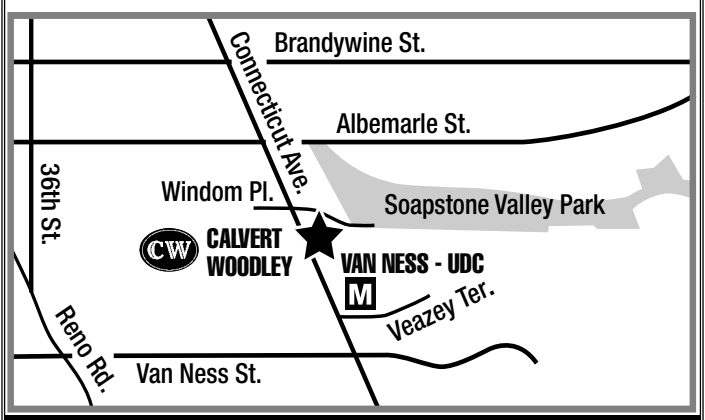

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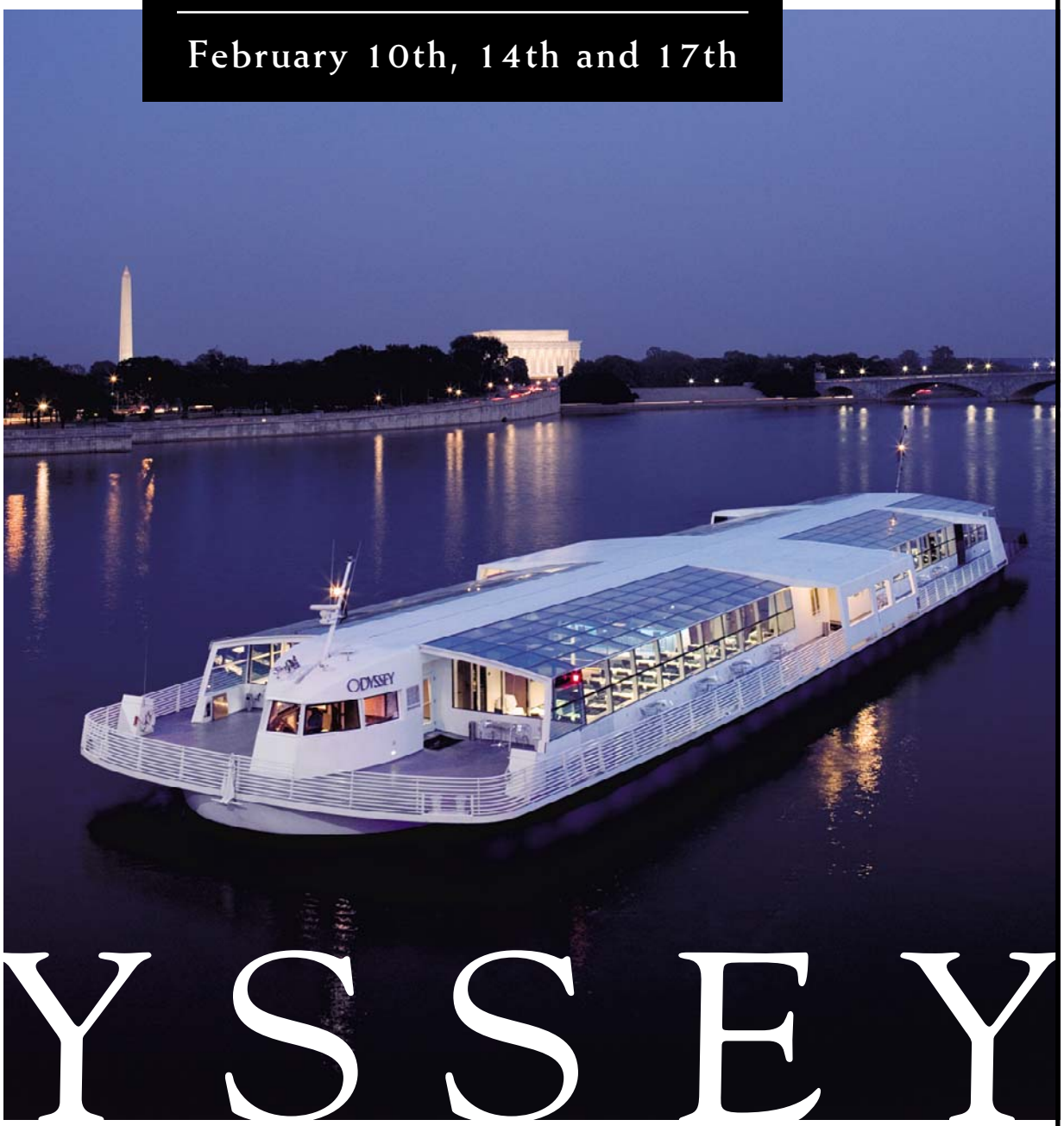
VALENTINE'S DAY CRUISES

February 10th, 14th and 17th



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Meal Deal: Chef Robert Irvine saves imperiled dinners | E4

How to Wear the New Slim Suit

The skinny on buying a new coat and pants combo | E7

MICHELLE REPISO/EXPRESS

PLUS: Time-travel to a Virginia inn where Washington camped or Jefferson dozed | E5

face Q+A time

COURTESY OF BRAVO

Todd Oldham

'TOP DESIGN' HOST, DECOR DUDE, CRAFT KING

▪ **Punchy couture fashions** first launched Todd Oldham on the design scene. But the whimsical styleophile has created funky bedspreads for Target, striped sofas for La-Z-Boy, rooms for Miami hotels and eccentric floral arrangements for FTD. On Jan. 31 at 11 p.m., he begins a gig as the host of Bravo's new reality show, "Top Design" (normally Wed. at 10 p.m.).

Why do we need another home reality show?
We don't, but this one is so much fun. We've culled 12 contestants from hundreds of applicants. It's a blast watching the hissy fits and fits of creativity.

"Top Design" works like "Top Chef," with contestants competing and being eliminated. What's surprised you about the designers?
It's impressive that they got the projects done under such intense time restraints. They were all so kick-ass from the start, and they just had a handful of hours to do mammoth challenges.

What do you think viewers get out of these kinds of shows?
It's a huge opportunity to take these ideas into your own home. The designers start with blank canvases and turn out great ideas.

What inspires your home-decor collections, like your current one for La-Z-Boy?
I'm open to inspiration wherever it hits. It might be the colors of two cleaning products next to each other in the supermarket or an Old Masters painting in a museum. And I'm collaborating with [legendary mid-20th-century artist] Charley Harper on a line of textiles for the La-Z-Boy pieces.

Tell me more about your floral arrangements for FTD.
I'm an avid gardener, a real flower and tree nut, so it's been a blast! One of the arrangements is in a colander and another is in a cocktail shaker. But my favorite thing to do was Halloween. We did stuff like giant spiders and graveyards, things you rarely see in flowers.

What's your own home look like?
My spaces are constantly changing and morphing. Interior design is like gardening — it's constantly shifting.

You're a snappy dresser — how would you describe your style?
Almost clean. I like wearing suits, and I also like wearing my underwear.

You're a fan of the crafts movement. Why is DIY hip again?
The joy of making things is so universal that it's undeniable. I'm really happy to see it in this age of automation. Any time you give things a tactile, expressive approach, that's just great. Plus, good feelings come from doing crafts with friends.

> "I'm open to inspiration wherever it hits. It might be the colors of cleaning products."

How do you approach hotel design?
It's important to have a point of view, but also make a space where all kinds of people will be happy. I try to use materials that have a happy resonance, ones that feel like our clothes.

You've dreamt up a diverse bunch of stuff. What won't you design?
Anything that involves any animal products.

What's your dream project?
An amusement park.

JENNIFER BARGER (EXPRESS)

chic alluring dynamic superb stylish quality vibrant stunning **Giorgio Armani** **Le Collezioni** essential distinctive worldly cultivated contemporary sensuous captivating **Sonia Rykiel** gorgeous rarefied dazzling sophisticated relevant glamorous inspired outstanding sublime dynamic **Lafayette 148** impeccable transcendent influential exciting vital romantic **Lida Baday** sleek modern exciting rich genuine exotic beautiful cool unparalleled **Strenesse** bold bewitching integral visionary understated **Melinda Eng** smart lovely resplendent refined luminous self-possessed **Bogner** enchanting confident luxurious exquisite sporty luscious precise **Moschino** magical witty glittering cutting-edge urbane immaculate graceful refreshing elegant **Gianfranco Ferre** ethereal timeless brilliant confident quality

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goods | Styles

2 Pluck in Neutral

A SHOP WITH A MISSION to hawk furniture and accessories mostly in grays, browns and whites sounds a bit, well, colorless. But Adams Morgan's new And Beige (1781 Florida Ave. NW; 202-234-1557) proves to be the most vibrant decor store to open in eons. A Brooklyn-meets-Paris space shows off raw linen-upholstered settees, a shell chandelier, a fish carved of bone ($206) and frames made of buttons ($36).

Grab Bag

3 Placebo Power?

ARE YOU AFRAID your monitor will melt your face? Clarins Expertise 3p Screen Mist ($40, Sephora) promises to ward off electromagnetic rays with white tea and rosemary, a claim impossible for us to test. But a spritz is sure refreshing.

5 Sugar-Rush The Passer

LARGE MEN CRASHING into each other meet sugary yeast cakes! Too yummy to relegate to Super Bowl Sunday, football-shaped Krispy Kremes ($.91 each, see krispykreme.com for locations) look like pigskins but taste like pure happiness. With a 48-hour advance order, the store will add filling for $1 per dozen.

4 Remnants, Reanimated

STYLISH LEFTOVERS — bits of tulle, Chanel pearls, weathered chains and still-popular skull charms — star in Couture Saboteur's dramatic, Gothy necklaces ($148-$198, unsungdesigners.com). One-of-a-kind statement pieces put together by New York stylist Thomas Griffiths, these bijoux seem right for nights at the Rock and Roll Hotel or edgy modern dance performances.

1 Married in Green

FOR THOSE COUPLES who love both each other and the planet, portovert.com, which launched this week, is the first Web site dedicated to couples who want their big day to be as green as possible. Articles on finding organic flowers or recycled invitations combine with eco-beauty tips (like how to get a high shine on nails while eschewing toxic polish) and lists of green-friendly reception sites. It's still a bit insubstantial, but give it time.

dear manolo

ANSWERS FROM THE SHOEBLOGGER

I've been told that I must stop wearing pointy-toed shoes because of a foot disorder. Could you recommend some non-ugly, non-flats that would be appropriate? —AMY

■ Manolo says, this friend of the Manolo is in luck. For the few years, around the turn of the millennium, the pointy-pointy shoes had come to completely dominate the shoe fashions. During the height of this mania, the tips of these stiletto-heeled shoes of pointiness began to lengthen, to the

extent that the Manolo feared that the stylish ladies would soon curl the toes of their shoes upward, stuffing them with moss and using the silver chains to secure the ends of them to their knees, as did the ridiculous and foppish dandies of the Middle Ages.

But, as such things do, the fashion tides began to turn, and the round-toed shoes and the square-toed shoes slowly reappeared on feets of the young and beautiful. This is especially good news for the super fantastic working girls who must spend many hours walking and standing on their feets. Here is the attractive round-toed suede pump in the delicious plum color, the Belle by Sigerson Morrison ($200, zappos.com).

@ Ask the Manolo a question at manolo@shoeblogs.com. Visit the Manolo at shoeblogs.com.

ON THE COVER

Tagino wears a Banana Republic cotton suit ($378, bananarepublic.com), **Dolce & Gabbana tailored-fit broadcloth shirt** ($250, Saks, the Men's Store) **and J. Crew rep tie** ($50, jcrew.com). **Photo by Michelle Repiso.**

Styles | entertaining

bash in a flash

Greet Aussie Meats, Treats

You have to love Australians. Not only do they have a pioneering history similar to ours, but their Hollywood exports have really improved since the days of Paul Hogan. Plus: marsupials! That's reason enough to observe Australia Day on Friday.

"Australians celebrate Australia Day in many ways," said Chelsey Martin, an Australian Embassy spokesperson. The most popular is the Australian barbecue, which requires "a lot of lamb and sausage," she explained. "A typical one would be lamb cutlets, sausage, steak and possibly seafood."

For dessert, try Lamingtons — pieces of sponge cake dipped in chocolate and rolled in coconut, or Anzac cookies, which were popular in World War I care packages sent to Aussie soldiers. "The secret ingredient," said Martin, "is golden syrup. But you won't know what that is." Never doubt the Woodward-esque tenacity of Express: Golden syrup is a by-product of sugar processing! It's difficult to come by here, but you can substitute corn syrup or honey in the recipe below. JAMIE PAGE DEATON

→ ANZAC COOKIES

Ingredients: 1 cup rolled oats; 3/4 cup dried, shredded coconut; 1 cup plain flour; 1 cup sugar; 4 oz. butter; 2 tbsp. golden syrup; 1/2 tsp. baking soda; 1 tbsp. water.

PREHEAT oven to 300 F. Mix oats, flour, sugar and coconut together.

Melt syrup and butter together. Mix soda with boiling water and add to melted butter and syrup. Add to dry ingredients. Place spoonfuls of the mixture onto a greased tray (allow room for spreading). Bake for 20 minutes. Loosen while warm and cool on trays.

WeekendPass makes the weekend historic.

Every Thursday in Express.

XX143eC 2x5

Win the Food Fight

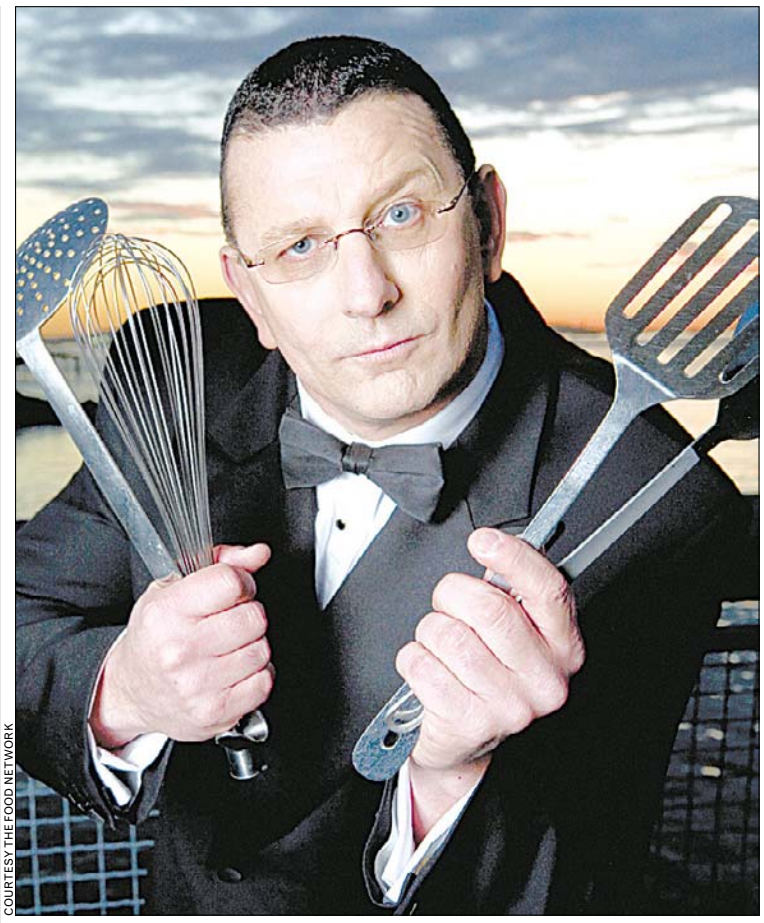
How to survive when trapped in a culinary nightmare

Even those possessing vast ovens, a full set of All-Clad pots and pans and a gazillion kitchen gadgets may get palpitations at the thought of throwing a fancy dinner party. So just think what would happen if all they had was a machete, a Swiss Army knife and a fishing line.

That scenario has become a regular occurrence for chef Robert Irvine, who's served fine cuisine to British royals and other heads of state. The Food Network is testing his cool with "Dinner: Impossible" (Wednesdays, 10:30 p.m.), a new TV series that puts him into nerve-wracking situations, like preparing a wedding banquet in eight hours. Through it all, he manages to keep his head: "It doesn't get anything done to scream and get excited."

While these circumstances are extreme, any host can identify with Irvine. Take Jeremy Hobson, a producer at National Public Radio who dared to prepare coq au vin for his boss. The 24-year-old throws dinner parties every two weeks at his Adams Morgan pad, but this dish was the most complicated he could muster. The problem? A pan of boiling bacon fat splattered onto his arm, leaving him in agony. "How am I going to cover this up?" he thought. But he popped a painkiller, slipped on a long-sleeved shirt and kept on cooking. "The show must go on," he said.

Royce Dalby, a 41-year-old aerospace consultant with a weekly dinner party ritual at his Logan Circle place, has seen his fair share of meal mishaps, too. "Things get burned, taste awful and don't turn out well," he said. He readies himself for the inevitable by producing large quantities, giving him the luxury of tossing true disasters. The absolute worst was a roast that couldn't seem to get hot enough to appease his meat thermometer. After an extra 30 minutes of oven time, Dalby cut into the meat, only to find it completely charred. "I remember how I threw that thermometer," he said. "I still have a dent in my kitchen wall."



COURTESY THE FOOD NETWORK

Think of chef Robert Irvine, of "Dinner: Impossible," as the MacGyver of the kitchen.

> "It doesn't get anything done to scream and get excited."

Rolling with the punches in Irvine's line of work also means being flexible with ingredients. In the first episode, he's forced to use canned corn instead of the fresh stuff. Because he is a substitution master, he knew that canned corn gets gummy when cooked. So he added rhubarb to save the dish. "Viewers are going to see it's OK to change recipes," he said.

Time crunches are never a problem if you know what to heat up, Irvine said. In six minutes, he can throw together pan-seared snapper with grits and a red pepper coulis. Hobson goes a slightly simpler route when he has to get something on the table fast. "I'd want to do a salad because that's so easy. And then sausages. Put a great Spanish chorizo in a pan and you're done," he said.

The key, if you're not Irvine, is making sure your kitchen is stocked properly, noted Nycci Nellis, publisher and CEO of TheListAreYouOnIt.com, the popular food newsletter. The Kensington mom of five brags she's always ready to entertain. "You have meatballs, cheese and olives and you have a cocktail party," she said. Although she used to attempt restaurant-caliber dishes at home, her style simplified when she realized, "My friends want to be with me, not the food. We're not all Michel Richard."

And sometimes it helps to admit that the dinner really is impossible. One time the rack in Dalby's oven collapsed right before a fete. "So I ordered sushi for everybody," he said. VICKY HALLETT (EXPRESS)

Bed Down in History

Va. inns where long-gone swells snoozed and partied

Any Virginia bed-and-breakfast owner would relish posting a sign claiming, "George Washington slept here." The state has so many historic inns that the first prez might have overnighted in the same room you're thinking of booking for a Valentine's (or Presidents) Day getaway. Here are a few of the Old Dominion's many spots where you can walk (or nap) in the buckled-shoe steps of celebs of the past, from colonial politicos to Civil War spies. MICHELE KAYAL

MICHELLE REPISO/EXPRESS

TIME TRAVEL PLAN: A weekend in the Shearer Suite at Virginia's Inn at Meander Plantation zaps travelers back to the era of Redcoats and powdered wigs.

THE INN AT MEANDER PLANTATION

Follow the split-rail fence up the drive, past the lawn where Washington's troops camped, and you can almost smell the smoke of Revolutionary Army fires. The columned manse, built mostly around 1766 by the son of Col. Joshua Fry, a commander in the French and Indian War, hosted George Washington, General Lafayette and Thomas Jefferson.

It's not hard to imagine Jefferson crouching to fit his 6-foot-2-inch frame into Meander's low-ceilinged parlor. But modern guests won't want to slumber on a chaff-stuffed mattress like he might have. Good thing the home's authenticities — sloping floors, hand-pegged paneling — are complemented by comfy beds, luxe linens, gourmet meals and huge guest rooms (one's carved from a what was once the summer kitchen).

Even those bent on seeing nearby sights (James Madison's Montpelier estate, Shenandoah National Park) might have trouble tearing away from their room's roaring hearth or the garden paths punctuated by millstones.

➜ Nine rooms with private baths, $165-$265, 2333 N. James Madison Hwy., Locust Dale; 800-385-4936; meander.net

EDGEWOOD PLANTATION

Innkeeper Dot Boulware first learned that Confederate General J.E.B. Stuart had stopped by her house from a re-enactor playing the Confederate commander who tied his horse to her front porch.

The 1849 antebellum Gothic gem was once part of nearby Berkeley Plantation, the ancestral home of U.S. Presidents William Henry Harrison and Benjamin Harrison. Confederate spies once used the attic as a lookout; now Edgewood's ultra-Victorian decor draws romantics wanting to visit nearby Jamestown and Williamsburg.

➜ Eight rooms, two with shared baths, $134-$198, 4800 John Tyler Memorial Hwy., Charles City; 800-296-3343; edgewoodplantation.com

INN AT WARNER HALL

Survey the Severn River from the boathouse and you're taking in the vista George Washington probably did — he frequented this plantation, built by great-great grandfather Augustine Warner in 1642. "Presidents, generals, explorers and queens have all visited," said innkeeper Theresa Stavens. Among the drop-ins: Robert E. Lee, Meriwether Lewis and Queen Elizabeth II.

A late-1800s Colonial Revival house, built on 17th- and 18th-century foundations, features a look as regal as the plantation's lineage, thanks to antique and repro furnishings, high ceilings and nine fireplaces.

➜ 11 rooms with private baths, $150-$245, 4750 Warner Hall Rd., Gloucester; 800-331-2720; warnerhall.com

THE BELL HOUSE

Alexander Graham Bell once flew kites from the widow's walk at this riverfront Victorian confection; today, the spot's an ideal perch from which to catch the sunrise over the Potomac. "The sky's striated with pinks, blues and oranges," said innkeeper Anne Bolin.

> "Presidents, generals, explorers and queens have all visited."

A short drive from the birthplaces of George Washington and Robert E. Lee, the 1883 summer home of the telephone's inventor mixes antique elements (a cupola, stained glass) with modern comforts (plush robes, a daily wine-and-cheese hour). Need to use a land line? You'll have to speak into a megaphone-like reproduction of an old-school model. Though early techy Bell surely wouldn't frown on anyone bringing a Treo.

➜ Four rooms with private baths, $141, 821 Irving Ave., Colonial Beach; 804-224-7000; thebellhouse.com

SCENIC BUY WAYS ►► CHARLOTTESVILLE HOME DECOR STORES

C-ville Shops Satisfy Nesting Instinct

Residents of Thomas Jefferson's hometown live in everything from Monticello-grand Colonials to mod downtown lofts. Good thing they have a chic clutch of downtown housewares boutiques to furnish them with.

THE ARTFUL LODGER (218 W. MARKET ST; 434-970-1900) fills a Spartan-yet-hip space with exotic accessories from Asia and India, plus high-style furniture like a "Domo" table of alder wood and frosted glass ($800).

"You can mix china and paper in beautiful combinations," said Wade Andrews, a manager at **CASPARI** (100 W. MAIN ST.; 434-293-0623) , one of the country's only retail stores devoted to the popular printed line of paper plates and napkins.

Wouldn't that take-out sushi taste better eaten from colorful ceramic plates from China's Yixing region? Score these and other Asian tabletop items — teapots, saki sets — at **CHINABERRY** (313 E. MAIN ST.; 434-244-4077).

MICHELLE REPISO/EXPRESS

Fashionable paper plates and other home goods at Caspari.

Known for fine French antiques, **CHRISTINE MAGNE ANTIQUARIE** (114 4TH ST. NE; 434-296-6819) traffics in auction house-worthy finds: a Louis XV kingwood secretary with a marble top ($7,500), carved 18th-century bookcases.

The first students at Charlottesville's University of Virginia (founded in 1819) studied by candlelight, so it seems fitting that wick-mad shop **GLO** (225 E. MAIN ST.; 434-295-7432) makes its home near the campus. Light-casting offerings include beeswax tapers and aromatherapy votives. LYNN THORNE

express

Look in the **Express Styles Section** on February 9 to learn how you can vote for the winning couple!

WEDDING GIVEAWAY

Enter and you could

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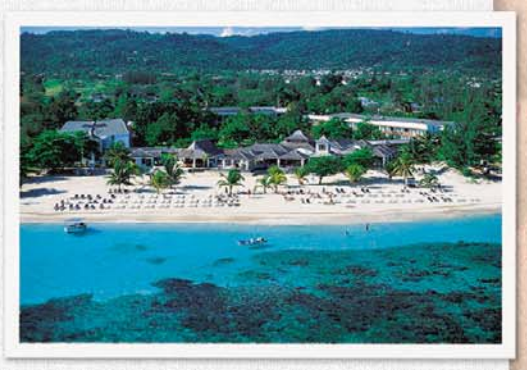

Enter from January 24 through February 2:

Visit **readexpress.com** and click on the contest link. You will be prompted to complete basic information and responses to discussion questions, and to attach a photograph. If you have questions, please send an e-mail with subject line "Contest" to weddings@readexpress.com.

Selecting the winner:

Express features editors will select five finalists whose profiles will appear in the Friday, February 9, issue of the Express Weekend Styles section. Entrants with the most compelling and creative submissions will be selected as finalists. Express readers will vote on their favorite couple from February 9 through February 16, and the winners will be announced in Weekend Styles on February 23. One couple will win a wedding package worth over $35,000! Four runner-up finalists will win dinner cruises on the Odyssey.

Prize package includes over $35,000 in wedding-related services and merchandise:

- Wedding dress from **Carine's Bridal Atelier**
- Shopping spree at **Union Station**
- Jamaican honeymoon package from **Beach Destinations**
- Photography by **Steve Canning Photography**
- Jewelry from **Helzberg Diamonds**
- Memberships & personal training from **Sport & Health**
- Full day spa services from **Serenity Day Spa**
- Dance lessons from **Arthur Murray**
- Dining cruise on the **Odyssey**
- Cosmetic dentistry from **DC Dental Spa**
- Bachelor and bachelorette parties from **Boomerang**
- Champagne/beverages from **Calvert Woodley**
- Exquisite dining at **La Ferme**
- Limousine service from **Reston Limousine**
- Ticket vouchers to **Arena Stage**
- Tuxedo rental from **Masters Tuxedo**
- Cake from **Heidelberg Pastry Shoppe**
- Invitations from the **Dandelion Patch**
- Home accessories from **Candleman**

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See readexpress.com for complete official rules.

No purchase necessary. Entrants must be engaged, 21+ years old, and a resident of the District of Columbia, Maryland, or Virginia. Employees of Express, The Washington Post, and contest sponsors are not eligible. Entries must be received by midnight February 2, 2007.

07-057

Slim Down Your Suit

Unless they work on the Hill, many young men shroud their one suit in a dusty bag in the back of the closet. But that relic is likely in need of replacing, and not with the oversized jacket and pleated, cuffed pants of yesteryear. Cut for comfort but styled for slickness, slim-cut modern suits are being donned by everyone from Jude Law to Justin Timberlake. Read on for what you should know about sporting "the new suit." CORY OHLENDORF

SHIRT: Your top should fit your torso as well as it fits your neck and arms, which isn't hard with the newer slim cuts. The higher armholes give a better fit inside the jacket, and the sides won't puff up at the midsection the way a traditional, boxy shirt will. (Eric Finn shirt, about $100, ericfinn.com)

CHEST: More than three fingers of room between your stomach and your closed jacket means one of you's too big. (Z Zegna suit, $995; tie, $110; Saks, the Men's Store, 5300 Wisconsin Ave. NW; 202-363-2059)

BREAK: You don't have to flash ankle, but the days of the slouchy break are over. Ask for a very small break, and remember to wear dark socks. Or no socks. (Cole Haan shoes, $248, Saks)

SHOULDERS: First and foremost, make sure to grab the right jacket size. It sounds simple, but most guys wear their suits a size too large. A jacket's shoulders should fit snug against yours. If they don't, the padding will start to sag — and then you look like you're wearing your father's suit.

LAPEL: A notch lapel, like this one, is the standard, safe option. Plus, it works better on a slim suit than the old-school peak lapel found on some blazers and double-breasted suits.

BODY: With the newer, shrunken silhouette, jacket lengths vary. But the bottom edge should never reach past your palms. For a more rakish look, you may want to have a tailor narrow the sides of the jacket.

BUTTONS: Three-button suits reek of the '90s. Now it's more about the two-button flair of the Rat Pack. Or, try on a one-button number, but know this trend may not last. By now, you should know not to use your bottom button.

SLEEVES: Some parts of a suit will always need tailoring. The jacket's sleeve is one of them. Some tailors will fight you on this, but demand that at least a quarter-inch of shirt cuff show.

VENTS: A center vent is the old American standby. But double side vents offer a more finished look and, because they don't spread open like the center version, they won't make your rear look so wide.

PANTS: Today's suit pants are made to be worn at your hips, like jeans, rather than around your belly button, like Dad's. If you'd like your slacks a bit more streamlined, ask for them to be taken in at the waist and the hips.

DETAILS: Don't worry about frilly silk pocket squares. Less is more when it comes to how much should peek out of the pocket, so simply fold and iron a plain white handkerchief into a crisp rectangle. (Harris Michael sterling-silver tie bar, $50, amazon.com. Brooks Brothers cotton handkerchiefs, $20 for seven, at area locations and brooksbrothers.com)

IDEA LIST

Landsberg knows how to suit up.

Well-Bespoken

Matt Landsberg, the dapper proprietor of custom clothier Eric Finn (1732 Connecticut Ave. NW; 202-232-3042; ericfinn.com), knows a few things about suits. Often seen about town in sharp-cut crepe, the bespoke expert gave us some buying tips:

→ "The first thing I always ask is, 'Where are you going to be wearing it?'," said Landsberg. A skinny, one-button number might be a bit much for a Monday meeting.

"You can't go wrong with a nice navy suit."

But don a slim navy pinstripe and lose the tie, and you'll be ready for happy hour.

→ "Most guys need a little coaching with the fit," laughed Landsberg. "The leaner you are, the more important the fit. Otherwise, it's just sloppy-looking."

→ "If a guy's just going to have one suit, they can't go wrong with a nice navy one. There are so many options — it can be traditional, you can spice it up or just wear the jacket with jeans," said Landsberg. "But charcoal is also a more modern option. And I think some African-American guys look better in a charcoal gray over the standard navy."

→ If you don't have the means for a custom-made suit, consider a bespoke shirt instead; Eric Finn's start at $89. C.O.

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out there

SEEKING ANSWERS ON THE TOWN

Q What would be your first act of Congress?

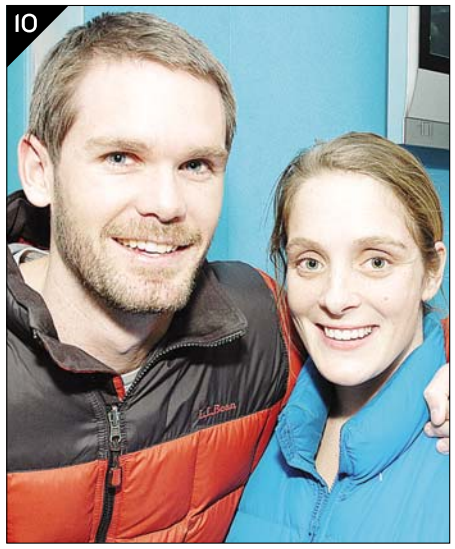
GALLERY | SILVER SPRING | FRIDAY, JAN. 19

1. "Mandatory recycling," Samantha Lunammachack, left. **"Make Metro more financially efficient so people don't have to drive,"** Jennifer Fox, center, with Sali Barry. **2. "Pass a budget for federal employees so we would get raises,"** Adrian Harris, left, with M.E. Rolle. **3. "Ban smoking nationwide,"** Tom Hale, left. **"Support for stem cell research,"** Leann Weyl, with Adam Weyl. **4. "D.C. becomes a state,"** Tom Bennett, center. **"I can't even decide what to pick off a menu,"** Jenny Mittleman, right, with Kurt Walter. **5. "To redo No Child Left Behind. I don't think it's helping the kids,"** Tennille Peters, left. **"You should have asked me before my second mojito,"** Lashae Ferguson. **6. "I would reauthorize the National Marine Sanctuaries Act,"** John Armor, with Vicki Wedell. **7. "You have to run a presidential campaign on less than $1 million. And no contributions can be more than $100,"** Brady Phillips, left. **"The truth in campaigning act. Politicians would have to fund the programs they supported during their campaigns,"** Sean Morton. **8. "To allow smoking in bars again,"** Ash Sellami, with Kristina Memedova. **9. "No smoking indoors anywhere,"** Simi Sethi, left. **"No starting wars without public consent,"** Gouri Shintri. **10. "Socialized alcohol and bars,"** John Stevenson, with Alicia Bishop. VICKY HALLETT (EXPRESS)

"Make Metro financially efficient so people don't have to drive."

"You should have asked me before my second mojito."

"You have to run a presidential campaign on less than $1 million."



"No starting wars without public consent."

B.I.O.

BY INVITATION ONLY: UPCOMING WEDDINGS & UNIONS

Eliezer Diaz, Ylian Prieto

Eliezer, 43, works for the government. Ylian, 32, is a general assistant for Poggenpohl. They live in Frederick.

■ **The Main Event:** A "very formal" ceremony for 140 guests on May 4 in Frederick.

■ **How They Met:** At Churreria Madrid in Washington. "I always have lunch over there with my co-workers," said Eliezer. One day, "her cousin Isabel introduced me to her."

■ **First Date:** A sushi lunch in Georgetown. "The best food for a first date," said Ylian. "You don't feel like Winnie the Pooh — full."

■ **Most Hated Clothing Item:** "I don't like her white blouse," said Eliezer. "It's very tight."

■ **Their Song:** "I'll Make Love to You," by Boyz II Men.

■ **Pet Names:** He calls her "mami"; she calls him "papi bello."

■ **When She Knew:** "The first day we were talking about our kids, and we hadn't even had our first kiss," said Ylian.

■ **The Dress:** An ivory dress "with the most incredible mantilla," said Ylian. "My brother Victor sent it from Spain."

■ **Mmm, Cake:** "Tres leches cake with lots of rum," said Ylian.

■ **Celebrating Heritage:** They'll exchange arras, or coins. They'll pass "from the pastor's hands to my hands and later to Eliezer to bless our property, money and all we have together," said Ylian.

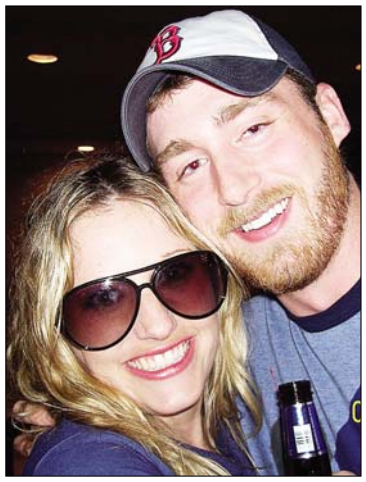
The cake is "tres leches with lots of rum," said Ylian.

Twice Is Nice

Luckily, life gives you second chances — **CHRIS DAVENPORT** and **KATE KIRBY** needed one. "We were on a trip in Pennsylvania Dutch country," said Kate. "We went for a hike and came to a huge rock that had a beautiful view. Chris said we should climb up it, but I was still recovering from meningitis and felt pretty weak. Chris urged me just to try to make it up, but I was too sick, so we headed back to the car. The ring was in his pocket!" One week later, Chris proposed at their house, after making an "enormous Indian dinner."

The couple met while working on a play at American Century Theater. "I thought Chris was cute, but I had a boyfriend so I tried to ignore the attraction," said Kate. "It didn't work." "I think our first date was the cast party for the show," said Chris. But, "Kate insists a first date includes dinner."

Chris, 31, is an actor. Kate, 25, is the education coordinator at the Shakespeare Theatre Company. They live in Cheverly and will marry Aug. 18 in Chevy Chase.



Susie Armstrong, Greg Tracy

Susie, 26, is a marketing administrative assistant at Union Station. Greg, 25, is an engineering lab tech at Germane Systems. They live in Arlington.

■ **The Main Event:** A semiformal ceremony ("but the bridal party will be wearing flip-flops," said Susie) for 150 guests on Sept. 29 on Isle of Palms, S.C.

■ **How They Met:** At work.

■ **First Impressions:** "Finally, a good-looking co-worker," said Greg.

■ **First Date:** Happy hour at McFadden's.

■ **How He Proposed:** At the Capital Grille. Susie thought she was meeting a friend for dinner, but when she arrived, Greg was at the table.

With an unlimited budget, "We'd have a private island and a weeklong wedding," Susie said.

■ **When She Knew:** "When I bought tickets (third row at the 10-yard line) and voluntarily froze while watching the New England Patriots in Boston in January," said Susie.

■ **The Dress:** "A metallic, strapless Nicole Miller dress," said Susie.

■ **Making It Unique:** "Susie loves desserts," said Greg. "So the reception will be a dessert reception. It will feature 13 dozen desserts, along with a groom's cake and the wedding cake."

■ **Wedding Jitters:** "That time will go by too fast!" said Susie.

Chris Fortier, Brittany Maynor

Chris, 27, is an attorney in Washington. Brittany, 27, is a paralegal in Beckley, W.Va. They will live in Arlington after they marry.

■ **The Main Event:** A Catholic ceremony on May 19 in Beckley, W.Va. They expect 175 guests.

■ **How They Met:** "At a little church during our law school years," said Chris. "I was talking about my internships here in D.C. and I unintentionally insulted her in the process."

■ **First Date:** Halloween 2003. "Chris was dressed as a rabid college sports fan and I was dressed up as a gypsy," said Brittany.

■ **Their Song:** "Come Away With Me," by Norah Jones.

■ **How He Proposed:** "We were at the Governor's Palace in Williamsburg on New Year's Eve. I gave her the ring wrapped in a box built of Legos," said Chris.

■ **Most Hated Clothing Item:** Her Derek Jeter replica jersey; the "short-sleeved blue shirt he wears A LOT."

■ **Pet Names:** He calls her "kiddo." She calls him "baby boy."

■ **When They Knew:** "When I saw her for the first time, some funny feeling came over me that she was going to be marrying me," said Chris. "When I realized how much I would miss him after he graduated from law school," said Brittany.

■ **Celebrating Heritage:** Brittany will not wear brand-new shoes, in accordance with French-Canadian custom. They'll also perform a traditional Hungarian dance called the "chadash."

■ **Mmm, Cake:** Buttermilk icing and a cascade of lavender flowers.

Getting Married? If you'd like to see your wedding or commitment ceremony in B.I.O., send your favorite informal photograph (wacky is fine, but please don't send a formal engagement shot), plus your names and ceremony date to weddings@readexpress.com. Please contact us at least one month before your wedding. We'll get back to you with some questions as your big day approaches.

Samurai SU DO KU

DIFFICULTY LEVEL: MIDDLEWEIGHT

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Last Week's Solution

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4	1	3	8	9	2	7	6	5				2	9	8	5	7	3	4	6	1
7	9	6	1	5	4	8	2	3				7	4	1	9	6	2	8	5	3

How to Play

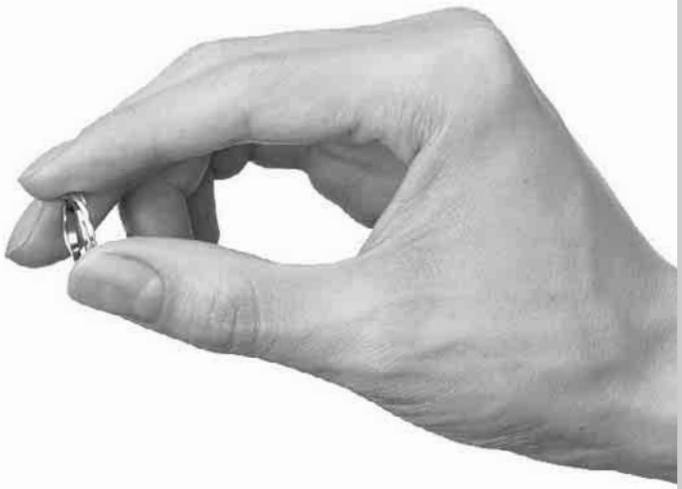
The rules of Samurai Sudoku are the same as in the popular Sudoku puzzles that appear in Express and The Washington Post.

As with standard Sudoku, the Samurai version requires no math, just logic, reasoning ... and an iron will. The goal is to fill in each column, row and 3x3 box with the digits 1 through 9 without repeating any. The twist in Samurai Sudoku is that the digits that appear in the overlapping boxes must work for both puzzles.

A piece of advice to get you started: Don't focus on completing one grid at a time. Keep the whole puzzle in mind as you go, because filling in a number in one grid could give you clues to another. As always, there's only one solution, which will appear in next week's edition of Weekend Styles.

Can't get enough Sudoku? Find a standard Sudoku puzzle in the Comics section of the Post every Sunday and in the Style section every Monday through Saturday.

Weddings Wanted*



* **Due to the winter wedding slowdown,** you won't have to wait weeks or months to be featured in B.I.O. if you submit now. Don't worry if your nuptials are months away — that's not a problem. Just send an e-mail to weddings@readexpress.com. We only run announcements before the event, though.

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OPEN - MD

Rockville Open Sun 1-4 $445,900
Expanded Rambler. Blocks to Metro, 3BR, 2BA, hdwds, large corner lot, 2 car gar, updates. From 1st & Veirs Mill, cont on 1st, R Grandin to #935.
Kathe King 703.966.7573
Vienna Office 703.938.6070

Silver Spring Open Sun 1-5 $639,000
Gorgeous Col, 4BR, 3.5BA, fin bsmt, 2 car gar, new carpet, paint & refinished hdwds. 2-tier deck & huge back yd. Rec & exercise rms. 1609 Featherwood St.
Linda Lynch 240.355.7396
Aspen Hill/LWP Ofc. 301.681.0550

OPEN - VA

Alexandria Open Sun 1-4 $569,000
Fabulous 3-Level TH w/3BR, garage & 1 reserved parking space. Hdwds, 2 gas fireplaces. 5107 Donovan Dr.
Betsy Dimmick/Hollar & Co 703.801.1415

Alexandria Open Sun 1-4 $623,900
End TH w/2 car garage! 2600+ sf w/2 MSTs, spa BA w/tub, gorgeous hdwds & gas FP. 227 Cameron Station Blvd.
Dawn Troutman/Hollar & Co 202.297.8310

Alexandria Open Sun 1-4 $999,000
Custom granite & ss kit & adjoining FR w/gas FP. Built-in bar & media rm. Superb MST. 349 Cameron Station Blvd.
Dawn Troutman/Hollar & Co 202.297.8310

Alex. South Open Sun 1-4 $290,000
New price for this nifty condo. Open kitchen w/breakfast bar, sunroom. Newly painted, move-in ready. Handicap accessible. 2BR, 2BA.
Heidi Kabler 703.850.2558

Fairfax Open Sun 1-4 $260,000
Lovely 2 lvl, 2BR, 1.5BA, hdwd foyer/ kit, freshly painted through-out. Close to Fair Oaks Mall, I-66, Fairfax City & Vienna Metro.
PJ Sikand 703.244.3807

Falls Church Open Sun 12-4 $364,900
Luxurious & spacious 2BR, 2BA condo in Merrifield's premiere community-High Pointe! 3021 Nicosh Circle #1109.
Stacy Mathios 703.691.0555 x141

Gainesville Open Sun 12-4 $459,950
Room to expand! 2BR, 2BA, 2-car gar, deck & upgrades. 1900+sf bsmt. Dir: I-66 to Rt 29 North, straight thru light onto Heathcote, R Heritage Hunt, R Ryton Ridge, R Derby Run, Right Smallpath.
Madonna Padilla 703.919.9233

Mt.Vernon Open Sat & Sun 1-4 $739,000
Beautiful custom built Colonial on cul-de-sac w/main-level bedroom. 4BR, 4BA, 3 fireplaces, 2-car garage.
Heidi & Joyce 703.850.2558

N.Springfield Open Sun 1-4 $749,900
Gorgeous new 5BR/5BA inside the beltway! Top of the line w/granite, ss, marble, Berber, hdwds, mouldings, lighting & many more builder upgrades!
Christine O 703.216.3005

Winchester Open Sun 12-4 $234,950
Stylish 3BR garage TH. Country kitchen exits to decking! LR w/gas FP. Lg MBR! Dir: I-81, exit Rt 7 East, R Valley Mill, R Brookland, R Windstone Dr to 112.
The Bendinelli Team 703.307.2499

D.C.

N.W. $799,900
Stunning 2BR, 2.5BA TH style condo at Logan Circle. Many amenities & features. Near shopping & restaurants. Extra storage space. 1 parking space conveys.
Tom Davidson 202.446.3241

S.W./D.C. $250,000
3 lvl all brick duplex w/4BR, 1.5BA. Sep LR & DR, open kitchen, fin basement. Needs TLC. Seller offering some closing!
Joan B. Goodrum 301.602.9299

Virginia

Chantilly $1,700,000
3.25 ac lot w/existing home w/possible future zoning for 9 individual building lots. Close to Rt50 & Pleasant Valley Rd.
PJ Sikand 703.244.3807

Falls Church $1,700/mo.
RENT a Petite TH. 3BR, 2.5BA, W/D. NO pets. Dir: I-495 to Rt 50, Fairview towards left, L Hwy 29 (Lee Hwy), R Shreve Rd, L Herrell. Available now.
Madonna Padilla 703.919.9233

Lorton $999,000
Stunning 5700 sf, 5BR, 4FBA & 2HBA! 1 yr old w/granite/ss gourm kit w/sunrm backs to woods. 8121 Bluebonnet Dr.
Cindy Bartlam/Hollar & Co 703.606.2198

Lorton Rental $2,500/mo.
Never lived in! Brand new SFH w/fully fin bsmt & FBA. Nice den can be used as BR. Kit w/upgraded appls. Close to I-95 & Rt 1 & mins from Potomac Mills Mall.
PJ Sikand 703.244.3807

Manassas $359,900
3BR, 1FBA, 2HBA, formal DR, rec room, office/den & 1/2 bath. Kit w/huge pantry, custom double wall ovens & stove. Convenient to VRE, Routes 28, 29 & 66.
Elizabeth 571.247.2720

Manassas City $749,950
Stately 4BR w/3FBA & 2.5HBA. Lovely landscaping & flagstone walkway! Hdwds! FR w/stone FP! Fin LL rec rm w/FP, den, billiards rm, BA & workshop!
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CONDO Living

JAN. 2007

FEATURING WASHINGTON, MARYLAND AND VIRGINIA'S FINEST IN CONDOMINIUM LIVING CHOICES

Run to the Border Town: Drawn by theaters, cafes and boutiques, condo hunters snap up properties in Bethesda | E2

Playing in Technicolor: Atomic Age hues and vintage finds make a Virginia couple's pad both chic and cheerful | E6

Small Space, Big Style: Does your flat look flat? Maybe you need an interior designer who makes condo calls | E12

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DESIGN IS THE DIFFERENCE

Bethesda's Big Boom

Close-in suburb explodes with cafes, shops and condos

In his 2000 book, "Bobos in Paradise," journalist David Brooks theorized that Bethesda, Md., offered the ideal solution for baby boomers who fondly remembered their counterculture days but now craved living among creature comforts.

Hot 'HOOD

The fact that the neighborhood buzzed with restaurants, bookstores, boutiques, art galleries, movie theaters and a Metro stop that zips directly into the center of D.C. somehow mitigated their disappointment that they weren't camped in a loft in New York's Chelsea or SoHo areas.

STREET LIFE SERENADE: Bethesda's busy Woodmont Avenue boasts worldly restaurants, hip boutiques and galleries.

But this cool 'hood (bounded by Battery Lane to the north, Bradley Boulevard to the south, old Georgetown and Arlington roads to the west and the start of East-West Highway to the east) wasn't always so desirable. David Dabney, executive director of marketing organization Bethesda Urban Partnership (BUP), said, "Bethesda used to be a place you passed through on the way to someplace else." And, according to historian William Offut, author of "Bethesda, A Social History," in the 1730s, Bethesda's main drag, Wisconsin Avenue, was literally a dot on the map for tobacco planters on the way to Georgetown.

Fast-forward to the 20th century. The biggest change for the area came in the 1980s, when the Metro system designated Bethesda as a stop on the Red Line. A decade later, Federal Realty, which had acquired an area between Arlington Road and Woodmont Avenue that was

the site of a cement plant, a few old bars and a mishmash of retail, transformed the zone into a bustling area of restaurants, businesses, and boutiques. These days, a three-level Barnes & Noble bookstore with a fountain in front of it anchors the whole area — drawing couples with kids, retired people and runners to relax around it.

This new downtown, dubbed Bethesda Row, boasted attractions that seemed both urban and small town: brick sidewalks, trees, trash receptacles, the Capital Crescent Trail (for bikers and walkers), a movie theater and an ice cream parlor.

In 1993, this all helped to jump-start luxury residential development with the elegant, four-story, garden-style condominium building with rooftop patio, the Edgemoor on Montgomery Lane, and the Edgemoor at Arlington Road.

"Bethesda Row was the key to development here," said Bonnie Casper of Long & Foster Real Estate's Bethesda Gateway office. "Selling real estate here before this was a non-starter." Jane Fairweather of Coldwell Banker concurred. "Before Bethesda Row, there was no downtown; there was only a business district along Wisconsin Avenue, and there was no reason anyone wanted to hang out there."

"My kids grew up and the dog died," said travel agent Zelda Goldberg, who moved to the Edgemoor with her husband, Alfred, about five years ago. "I always thought I'd be in Georgetown, but Bethesda grew up to be an enticing place to live. We walk all over, there are no stairs and you don't need a gardener."

"What's not to like?" asked Marc Dubrick, President of Duball, LLC, developer of Lionsgate, a 158-unit luxury condo at the corner of Old Georgetown Road and Woodmont Avenue. "You can leave your apartment, go to a movie or a theater [the Roundhouse is here and the Nederlander Company, the oldest Broadway production company in New York, has refurbished [a former art deco movie house into a theater for off-Broadway shows, set to open next fall], browse in a bookstore or art gallery, have an ice cream and walk home."

On the former site of a two-story retail building that once held an Olsson's bookstore, Ritz Camera and an Outback Steakhouse, Lionsgate includes 14,000 square feet of street-level retail and 280 below-ground parking spaces. The one- to three-bedroom units (delivering in 2008) range in price from $800,000 to more than $2 million.

Amenities include valet parking, a concierge, a fitness center, Viking stainless-steel appliances, Wood-Mode cabinetry, granite countertops and hardwood floors. A wild touch for residents and those passing by: lion sculptures by local artist John Dreyfuss in the building's courtyard.

Though she hasn't moved in yet, 60-something civic activist Bev Denbo is looking forward to kicking back in her new two-bedroom condo in the Adagio on Wisconsin Avenue. "I'm divorced, my kids are gone, and I live in one-quarter of my house," she said. The Adagio has all the amenities she wants, plus a 34-square-foot terrace with views toward Friendship Heights from its eighth-floor perch. Units with floor-to-ceiling windows, views and terraces are priced from $500,000 to $2 million.

But what's most important to Denbo is the location. "I'm an urban person, and it's the gateway to Bethesda," she said. "Plus, it's practically next to the Capital Crescent Trail, where I bike, walk and Rollerblade." As one of the first members of BUP, Denbo has been involved in downtown Bethesda for 10 years and was influential in "making that trail happen." What clinched the deal for Denbo was when she found out that the façade of the building would be a sheet of etched glass that would be backlit by New York artist James Carpenter.

Despite everything being up to

Continued on page E4

Filling a Flat or a Wardrobe

Anyone who buys a condo in Bethesda could furnish their entire place without leaving the downtown area, since it overflows with stores and businesses related to home furnishings and improvements. DIY spots include Union Hardware (7800 Wisconsin Ave.; 301-654-7810), Duron Paints & Wallcoverings (4809 Auburn Ave.; 301-654-7955) and several kitchen-and-bath design studios.

But it's the small, niche boutiques that make browsing Bethesda so appealing. Fans of Swedish antiques find their way to Tone on Tone (7920 Woodmont Ave.; 240-497-0800) for tables, chairs and benches painted in shades of white, gray and light blue, cream-colored tableware and etched glass bottles. Random Harvest's Bethesda store (7766 Woodmont Ave.; 301-280-2777) offers classically styled furniture (armoires, dining tables, benches), both antique and reproduction, along with Asian-influenced accessories. Urban Country (7801 Woodmont Ave.; 301-654-0500) stocks rustic dining tables and chairs, Pine Cone Hill sheets and quilts and tabletop accessories from the fanciful likes of MacKenzie-Childs. Pomegranate (4917 St. Elmo Ave.; 301-718-4346) carries decoupage plates by John Derian and Artsy Fartsy (4836 Bethesda Ave.; 301-652-0110) is stuffed with painted armoires, design books (e.g., "In Vogue: The Illustrated History of the World's Most Famous Fashion Magazine"), tablewares, vintage clocks and gilded mirrors. Craft lovers shouldn't miss Sansar (4805 Bethesda Ave.; 301-652-8676) for made-to-order wood furniture, funky lamps and small bowls made of sea glass.

The zone also hosts a smattering of clothing boutiques like Daisy Too (4940 St. Elmo; 301-656-2280) and Luna (7232 Woodmont Ave.).

The newest addition to the fashion fold: the Bethesda branch of Arlington's Denim Bar (4939 Cordell Ave.; 301-986-5260), a hip destination for high-end jeans plus handbags and belts. It may be a sign that Bethesda is getting even cooler. Co-owner Mauro Farinelli said Chevy Chase and McLean customers urged him to open a store here. "I did the math and figured that the volume and dollars are here," he said. Apparently, his computations were correct. Farinelli reports that in the first month of doing business here, he exceeded his Pentagon Row store numbers by 30 percent. J.B.K.

DAYNA SMITH/WASHINGTON POST

Jeans fiends who visit Mauro Farinelli's new Denim Bar in Bethesda can indulge in haute brands like Nudie , Rock & Republic and Habitual, as well as cold brews.

Hardwood floors and huge windows are among the amenities in condos in the upcoming Lionsgate at Woodmont Corner.

CONDOLiving

Continued from page E3

date in Bethesda, the condo market is softening, Casper said. "Inventory is up. There's 60.6 percent more on the market this October than last in Bethesda." According to Fairweather, it's mostly because empty nesters aren't able to sell their homes for as much as they imagined. But, said Fairweather, "There are at least six or seven projects that have filed plans with Montgomery County."

PN Hofmann's upcoming project, which will put 300 units at the corner of Woodmont and Bethesda avenues, is one of them. David DeSantis, PN Hoffman's vice president of sales and marketing, said, "The market is slow right now, but I think it's temporary. Fundamentals like jobs are good. And once inventory is sold, the demand for projects in good locations will be high."

PN Hoffman's development, breaking ground in 2008, will feature 40,000 square feet of retail on its ground level, 300 residences with a range of prices and sizes in two buildings, plus a parking garage with 1,300 spaces, a large number of which will be set aside for public parking. (Despite a trolley service that shuttles people from removed parking lots to the downtown area, parking in this area can be problematic.) And, as required by Montgomery County law, there will be a number of apartments set aside as "affordable work force" housing for service workers like firefighters and nurses. The same applies to Federal Realty's second phase of Bethesda Row, which, said spokesperson Charles Maier, will feature rental apartments, restaurants, businesses and shops, to be completed by 2008. It's sure to give Bethesda yet another boost. JANET BENNETT KELLY

Span the Globe on A Plate

Thai noodles, French onion soup, Tex-Mex tacos, Japanese sushi. Most major cuisines can be found in Bethesda, since the area is booming with restaurants. The area has at least 200, according to Bethesda Urban Partnership.

For breakfast, head to Marvelous Market (4832 Bethesda Ave.) for a flaky brioche and strong coffee or nosh on a poppy-seed bagel across the street at Bethesda Bagels (4819 Bethesda Ave.) Sassy waitresses sling good omelets and scrapple at the circa-1935 Tastee Diner (7731 Woodmont Ave.).

GALLIC BREAD: Mon Ami Gabi serves French wines and dishes like onion soup.

Vegetarians lunch fashionably at Thyme Square (4735 Bethesda Ave.). And those watching their waistlines can count calories at Rock Creek Restaurant (4917 Elm St.), where the menu lists a nutritional breakdown of each dish.

Woodmont Avenue offers a veritable United Nations of cuisines, ranging from samosas at Delhi Dhaba (7236 Woodmont) to sushi at Raku (7240 Woodmont), gambas (shrimp) tapas at Jaleo (7271 Woodmont) to hummus at Levante (7262 Woodmont) and salade aux lardons (greens with diced, fried bacon) at Mon Ami Gabi (pcitured, 7239 Woodmont).

Prefer bangers and mash with a pint of ale? Irish pub Ri Ra's (4931 Elm St.) is open until 2 a.m. Fridays and Saturdays. For gourmets and gourmands, the annual Taste of Bethesda Oct. 6 brings specialties from 50 area restaurants to a boisterous street festival. J.B.K.

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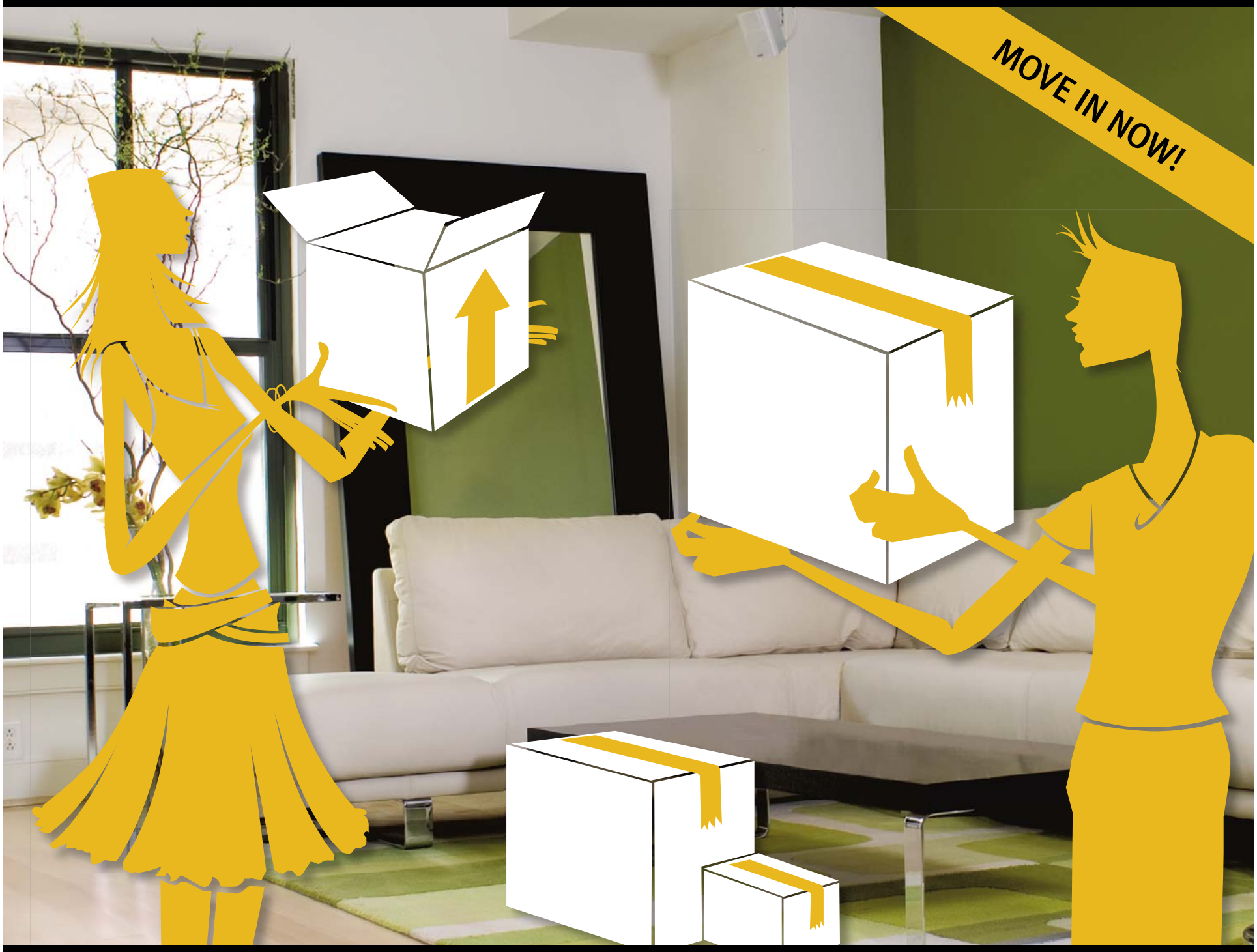

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All the Bright Stuff

Pop art and poppy colors deck a Virginia couple's hip condo

Rad PAD

Dean Martin and Frank Sinatra haven't been spotted in Sterling, Va., lately. But their Rat Packy, Vegas-wacky style lives on there in the master suite of Amanda and Josh Ramsden's two-bedroom, two-level condo. "The inspiration came from this cheesy old hotel ad I saw," said Amanda, 28, a library aide. "It had this loud print wallpaper and all this velvet. I loved it — I thought it looked tacky and cool at the same time."

So, with Josh, a 29-year-old tech support pro, acting as her informal design consultant, Amanda set about importing a mid-20th century groove to her late 20th-century boudoir.

Using patterns she cut from Mylar, she stenciled a funky geometric pattern on one wall in bordello red paint, using the same flaming shade to coat the other three walls. A black-and-gray Marimekko polka dot duvet, a bowling pin table lamp picked up at a yard sale for $35 and gold velvet curtains scored on eBay added to live-at- The-Sands mood.

"I think old Vegas has something to do with what I did," she said. "I like that it used to be all about nightclubs and lights, even the architecture of the old motels." Her fascination with this bygone era is perhaps best evoked by a collection of framed, vintage photos of motels on one wall. "My grandparents and parents owned a motel in the '70s before I was born, so it's funny," said Amanda.

MICHELLE REPISO/EXPRESS

The decor in Amanda and Josh Ramsden's bedroom recalls retro Vegas motels.

The rest of the couple's condo, which they share with a friendly, sweet-eyed mutt named Molly, pulses with a similar retro-meets-rad, pop-arty style. "When I was growing up, I'd come home and watch two hours of reruns of 'The Brady Bunch,'" said Amanda. "I think the '60s decor rubbed off on me."

In the couple's grown-up first-floor living/dining room, elements from the time of Greg and Marsha mix handily with more contemporary pieces. Crisp upholstered chairs cluster around a Formica dinette table in a chow -down zone illuminated by a crystal-laden chandelier (a $50 Home Depot steal). A sofa and chair from Ethan Allen in beige hues is set off by walls painted Glidden's "Atomic Orange" and stenciled with white space age-y shapes.

Continued on page E7

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Continued from page E6

"I love bright colors and comic book-style graphics," said Amanda. "They emphasize the banal, kitschy elements of culture."

Amanda, who relishes a good yard sale and frequents Goodwill and the Salvation Army for furniture and accessories, has filled the apartment with collectibles. "Thrifting is fun, because it's like a treasure hunt," she said.

Her eye-catching finds show up throughout the house, little surprises that invite conversation or laughs. They range from a clutch of weathered trophies (for bowling, dog shows and the like) and a silk-screened print of Chicago's lakefront to an orange rotary phone.

Amanda's most valued vintage piece is a console near the dining table that holds a fake fireplace, a stereo and a bar. She inherited it from her grandmother, and while it doesn't give off any heat, "it's a conversation piece," she said. "If the building were on fire, that's what I'd save. But it weighs a ton!"

HUES ON NEXT: ADVICE FROM AMANDA

Amanda Ramsden, who turned the two-bedroom condo she shares with husband Josh into a den of retro fun and lively color, shares her tips on thrifting and embracing bold shades. J.B.

➜ "When you move into a place, plan out what you want to do," said Amanda. "It saves time and money before making costly mistakes." And thinking before you lay down your Mastercard should keep you from picking up a bookcase that won't fit through the front door or snagging a pricey painting you'll hate in a year.

➜ "Don't be afraid of color," advises Amanda. It's spirit-lifting, adds loads of personality to any space and is easy to add. Just grab a brush and some paint or pick up a few bright accessories — orange, lime and purple are in.

➜ Even in the age of eBay, don't forget thrift stores. Some of Ramsden's best finds — cool lamps, kitschy lunch boxes, figurines — come from Goodwill and Salvation Army. "Some stuff I'll just pay a couple of bucks for," she gloated.

➜ Make it personal. Pop art portraits Amanda did of herself and Josh and inherited items like her fireplace/bar/stereo make the Ramsdens' nest cozy.

Art plays a part in the mix, too, both as lively canvases by Amanda herself and via vintage pieces, like a print by Vladimir Tretchikoff depicting a solemn Asian woman. Amanda found the latter at a flea market for $40. "It was painted in the 1950s, and was one of the first types of mass-produced art," she said. "They were sold in pharmacies and department stores."

Also decorating the walls: old record albums, which festoon the stairway ceiling, and a gallery of paint-by-number canvases — think ballet dancers, dogs, sad-eyed girls and a skeleton in a pirate getup.

MICHELLE REPISO/EXPRESS

Paint-by-number canvases scored at flea markets and yard sales combine with old vinyl LPs to form a funky art gallery in the stairwell in the Ramsdens' condo.

When the duo bought the condo three years ago, the space wasn't nearly as bright and bodacious. They replaced the carpet on the first level with laminate flooring. But the most work — and money — went into the kitchen. "It was just a mess when we moved in, with the flooring coming up and coffee stains

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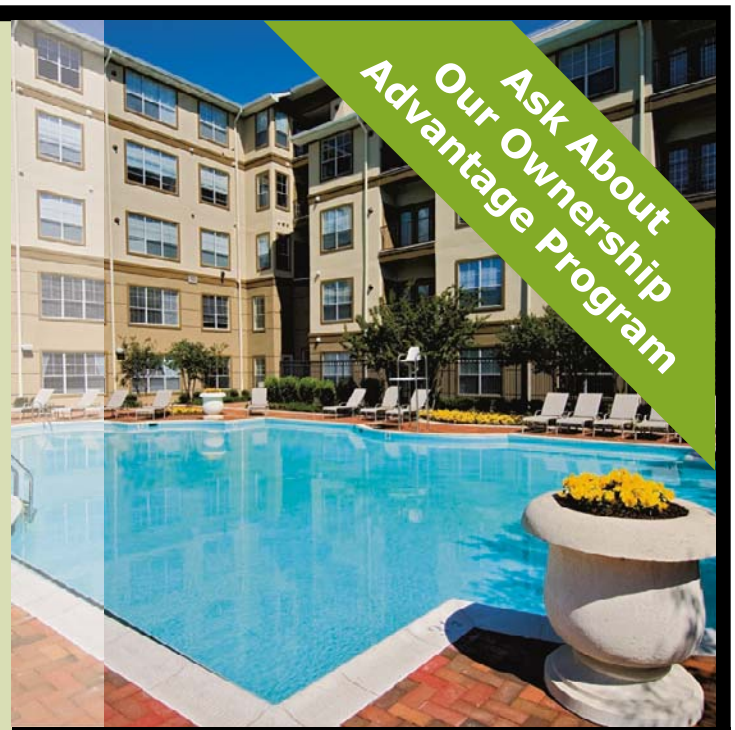

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on the countertops," she said. They put in a Daddy-o ish black and white checkered floor, bought a new fridge and dishwasher and replaced the old counters with speckled gray laminate. Mint-hued walls and orange Pantone chairs lend more style.

Bathrooms also got the couple's trademark rainbow conversion. A downstairs powder room's walls went acid yellow-green, setting off a collection of Amanda's grandfather's vintage license plates, including a 1957 Washington, D.C., one commemorating the inaugural of Ike Eisenhower and Richard Nixon.

The master bathroom is dolled up in what Amanda termed "ultra femme, gag-yourself pink that Barbie would approve of." On the walls: a framed album soundtrack from "Valley of the Dolls" and black and

> "I love bright colors and comic book-style graphics."
>
> **AMANDA RAMSDEN**, CONDO OWNER

white pin-ups of Marilyn Monroe and Bettie Page. And the kiwi green-walled second full bathroom — where Josh flees from all the girly glam — holds Hawaiian collectibles (a Tiki clock, a hula figurine) and a head shot of Conan O'Brien.

Amanda grew up surrounded by decor books and art (her mother worked in interior design), so she's obviously inherited some of her flair. But she's also influenced by blogs like Apartmenttherapy.com and magazines such as Domino, Elle Decor and Atomic Ranch, a mid-century style glossy.

By mixing this vibrant cocktail of bright hues and thrift-store bargains, the couple has created a space they enjoy hanging out in. "We love entertaining, having people over to play board games," said Amanda. "I like what our place says about us."

She gets many compliments from visitors, but some pals fear treading boldly into decorating with color themselves. "People say, 'I'd be afraid to do what you've done.' But you can always paint over it! Be bold." JENNIFER BARGER (EXPRESS)

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Interior Motivations

Designers bring luxe personal touches even to snug spaces

Forget those shelter magazines picturing glam redos of mega mansions: Interior designers are going small time. The professional style mavens — once best known for their work in mammoth homes — are now flexing their design muscles in hip, urban condos.

Lisa Cannon, owner of D.C.-based Condo Cool (condocool.com), got into the apartment decor biz in 2004 after facing design challenges with her own unit. "I saw a real growth in the market, and thought I could provide a service to people who might not think of going to a designer," she said.

The Washington Metro Chapter of the American Society of Interior Designers doesn't keep statistics on how many condo owners choose to hire an interior designer, but anecdotal evidence suggests the practice is becoming more common. Patrick Baglino, a Logan Circle designer (pbaglino.com), estimates that about half of his clients live in condos. Jason Claire, a co-owner of Vastu (1829 14th St. NW; vastudc.com), a furniture store that also offers design services, said that nearly 80 percent of his design customers are condo dwellers.

Typically, Claire's condo clients fit one of two profiles: either they are young urban professionals putting together a first home or empty nesters downsizing for life in the city. Designers can be useful for both demographics, Claire said, because he and his partners can help with space planning.

MICHELLE REPISO/EXPRESS

HIP, POCKET-SIZE: Christopher Donald and his wife, Mary Douglas, hired interior designer Patrick Baglino to help them outfit their new Petworth condominium.

"The common theme is: 'OK so now I live and dine in the same space, how do I break it up?' " said Claire. For people who are used to living in houses with many rooms, decking out a loft can be a challenge. In order to make an open floor plan into a multipurpose space, Claire and his team suggest investing in adjustable pieces like a dining room table that can double as a home office desk or chairs that will work both around the dinner table and in the living area.

Getting the scale of the furniture right is perhaps the most important part of condo decorating. "You have to go for things that are tailored to smaller spaces," said Baglino, warning against those comfortable, but massive, overstuffed chairs. "If it's too imposing, it just knocks a good design out of the water."

Storage is also at a premium in small spaces. "Newer condos tend to

Continued on page E14

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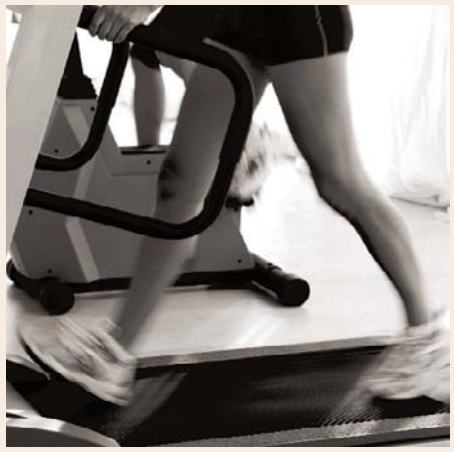

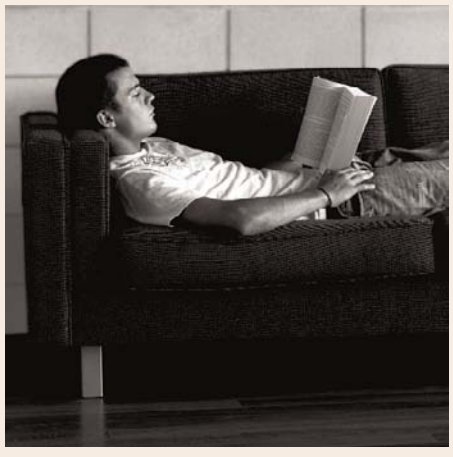

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CONDOLiving

Skip the Sectional Sofa

Design pros advise small chairs, subtle colors and frugality

Maybe you can't afford to hire an interior designer to spiff up your studio. But their techniques can be borrowed to give a space grace.

Dramatic hues, like this princessy purple, look best as accents in smaller spaces. Paint the walls deep lavender, and risk making a condominium look tinier than it is.

➜ **Scale** All designers interviewed for this story mentioned furniture size and scale as the No. 1 priority for condo dwellers. If your ceilings are low, Jason Claire — who helps clients deck their walls via his D.C. shop, Vastu — recommends furniture that is lower to the ground.

➜ **Neutral Colors** Even a top-tier interior designer can't make your 630-square-foot condo look huge. Grays, beiges or creams on the walls can help the space look bigger, though. Save purples and reds for accents like pillows or rugs.

➜ **Invest** Once you edit your furniture, splurge on an important piece like a couch that you can keep for years. "Make sure it's a neutral fabric, so you can change other things in the room," said Lisa Cannon of design biz Condo Cool (condocool.com).

➜ **Pick Paint Color Last** "There are tens of thousands of colors," said Claire. Select paint after the furniture to ensure everything goes.

➜ **Spend Within Your Means** "It's very easy to be enticed by all these beautiful things, but a client is not going to be happy if they know that chair is costing them $200 to $300 a month to pay off," said D.C. interior designer Patrick Baglino.

➜ **Goodbye, Dorm Room Furniture** Some pieces just don't fit in a small space. Don't be afraid to let go of your Pier 1 papasan.

➜ **Be Yourself** "I would tell people not to be afraid to express your individuality," said Cannon. This is your apartment; make it home. J.B.

Continued from E12

have open floor plans," said Cannon. "If your stuff is spread out messily in a corner, you'll see it when you walk into the room." She encourages clients to buy ottomans, coffee tables and platform beds with hidden storage compartments.

Christopher Donald, 33, and his wife, Mary Douglas, 38 — who both work in nonprofits dedicated to affordable housing — sought out D.C. interior designer Patrick Baglino's services because they wanted a professional to meld their sometimes competing visions for their 930-square-foot condo. The standard (read: dull) features in their recently converted two-bedroom home in a Petworth apartment building were in need of a face lift. And as Donald said, "We wanted it to reflect both of us in a neat, cool, sexy way."

Because both Donald and Douglas have an interest in decorating (and an HGTV addiction), the couple has taken the designer-client collaboration to a new level. They have been known to troll the furniture stores for pieces they like and then seek out Baglino's approval. Their enthusiasm gave Baglino a sense of the couple's taste, something that is crucial when designers pick pieces for clients.

MICHELLE REPISO/EXPRESS

A slinky chair and an abstract painting tango in Donald and Douglas' condo.

As a trained pro, Baglino has a much broader knowledge of furniture vendors than most people. This knowledge helped save the couple money when they fell in love with some $600 Williams-Sonoma Home chairs for their dining room. Baglino found comparable chairs at $400 a pop.

Recently, Donald and Douglas had to adjust their design vision slightly, since they are expecting their first child in late March. "All of our dreams of sexy chic have now been poured down the toilet for stars on the ceiling and nice, primary colors," said Donald.

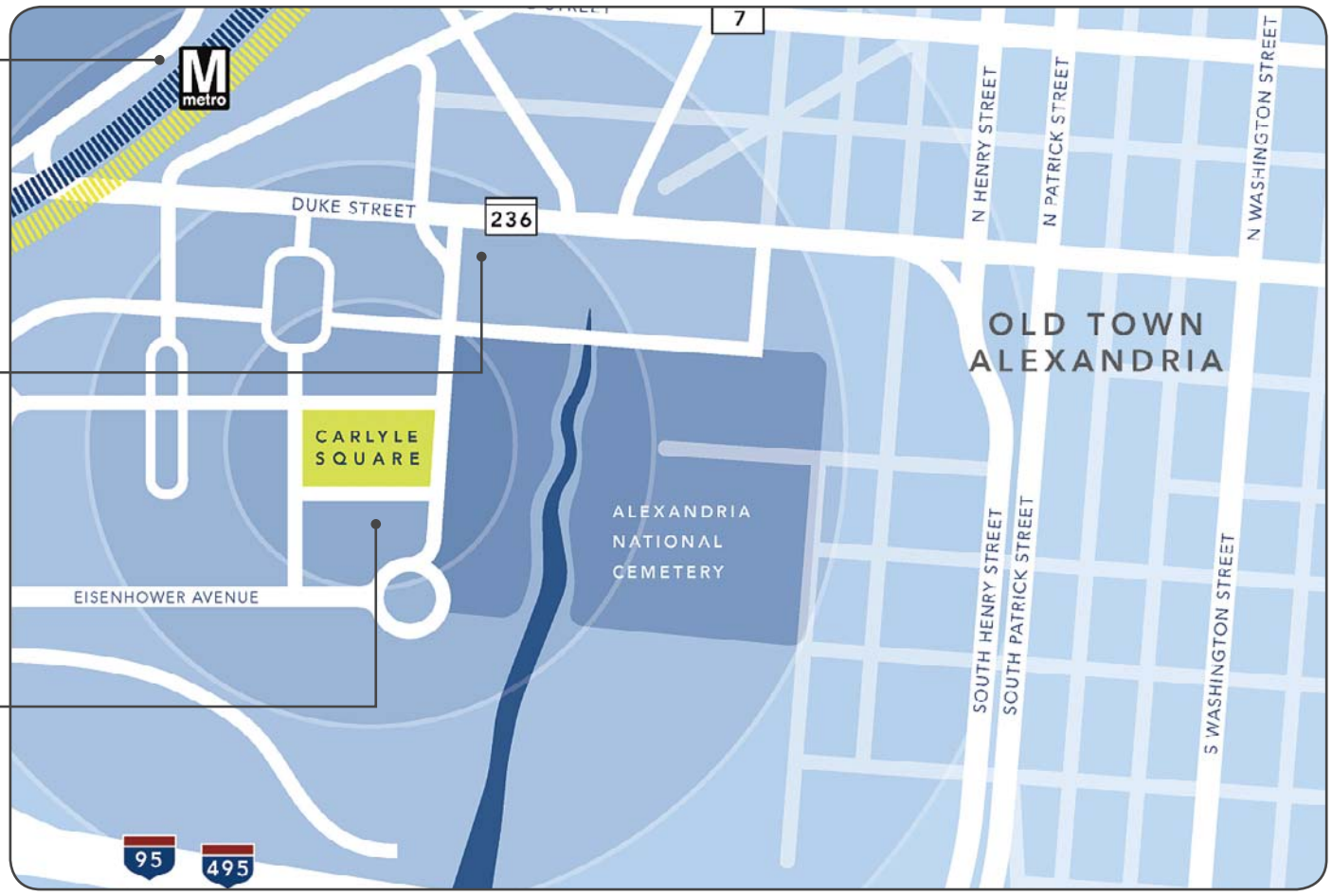
They are now working with Baglino to make sure the condo's second bedroom is both "stimulating and exciting" for the child, but can also function as a guest room or office space.

"What we're finding is to do this really takes a lot of time and a lot of money," said Donald, who hopes the furniture pieces they have chosen will be fixtures in their home for years. "It's really an investment, the same way you invest in art," he said. "When we have little gremlins

Continued on page E16

THE CONDOMINIUMS AT

CARLYLE SQUARE



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CONDOLiving

VASTU

Neutral textiles, low furniture and tweaks of bright color orchestrated by Vastu, a 14th Street decor boutique, lend Steve Sellick's Logan Circle condo urban flair.

Continued from E14

running around and banging on the furniture, we'll really see whether our choices were sensible or whether they were too out there."

Steve Sellick, 39, an expert witness for corporate litigation on asbestos, sought out a designer for his 1,700-square-foot condo because he wanted to make sure the space reflected his Logan Circle neighborhood. "You really need someone who understands that urban sensibility," he said.

Sellick went with the designers at Vastu because they know about more furniture options than the ones he might find on a weekend shopping trip at the mall. He likened the experience of working with a designer to looking at a menu at a restaurant, since he could pick and choose items from what the designers presented to him.

For some folks, the decision to use a designer is one of pure practicality. "I'm not really good at interior design, so I didn't want to screw it up by doing my own thing," said Daniel Barutta, a 50-year-old program officer for AmeriCorps, who used Vastu's designers for his luxury Logan Circle condo.

Vastu staff picked up on some of the features in the condominium (sliding glass doors, bamboo floors and black and red, colors Barutta liked) and went with a modern Asian feel — even incorporating a painting of a koi that Barutta picked out.

For the style-challenged and the very busy, designers can do a lot of their work without bothering their clients, and can even wait at apartments for furniture delivery.

For his part, Claire hopes the leave-it-to-the-experts approach isn't too intimidating. "Don't be afraid to ask for help," he said. "You go to experts for help with various things — accounting and what have you. There are designers out there who are very approachable. We do a lot of small projects and we can work to a budget." JULIA BEIZER

WANNA GO FOR A PRO?

If you decide to hire an interior designer, do your homework before shelling out.

→ Know What You Like

A designer's job is to cater to the client. Be prepared to say what you are looking for or to show pictures from magazines. If you can't tell the designer precisely what want, the process is a waste of time and money.

→ Price Points

Designers' fees start at $100-$150 per hour. The amount of time you'll need them for can vary dramatically depending on each condo's needs. Vastu only charges for hours that the designers spend outside of the store because the owners figure their design clients will end up buying pieces through the store.

→ Determine Priorities

Most condo owners start with the living area. Make sure you have the designer focus on what's most important to you. J.B.

WASHINGTON POST

ONLY FOR SCARLETT O'HARA: Spiral stairs look glamorous, but they can detract from your home's resale value, since many people consider them hazardous.

Turnover In Trends

Sinks, stairs and floors raise (or lower) a home's resale value

Will those stainless steel appliances help sell your home? How about that spiral staircase? Hmmm. Maybe hardwood floors, installed throughout the house, would be a better bet for resale value.

These are the kinds of questions that Mark Nash, author of "1,001 Tips for Buying and Selling a Home," posed to 5,000 real estate agents from around the country, receiving some 923 responses. What, he asked them, are the features that are turning for-sale signs into sold signs?

The results: Some old favorites, such as spiral staircases, are definitely out, agents said. You know, the kind of stairs to which kids are drawn, just before they slip on the rungs and break their little heads? The kind that inspire terror in homeowners as they watch a tipsy guest stumbling toward them?

But other "old" features, such as old-fashioned plank floors and wood paneling over kitchen appliances have more appeal than ever, the agents said. Storage space brings buzz. Think linen closets, dressing areas, pantries, luggage rooms — all the spaces historic houses had in abundance, even when they were short on closets.

Meanwhile, some relatively new features — things that were hot just a few years ago — are starting to feel dated, or are actually inciting a negative backlash, at least among some buyers.

Stainless steel appliances, for example, now draw criticism because some models are hard to keep smudge-free. Vessel-style sinks, the bowl-shaped, above-counter bathroom sinks, are still a "wow" feature with some buyers, but some real estate agents say they are

Continued on page E18

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CONDOLiving

SARAH ABRUZZESE/WASHINGTON POST

HOUSE WARY: Before investing in stainless steel kitchen appliances, research the current trends. The easy-to-smudge pieces often turn off potential condo buyers.

Continued from E17

falling from fashion because they, too, are hard to keep clean.

But glass tiles in kitchens and bathrooms add glisten and glow, at minimal cost, and are a definite yes.

Modern lifestyles, however, require some updating of homes. Having two home offices — one for each half of the dual income required to pay for all this luxury — is a major selling point, the survey found.

Knowing what is really hot, versus what used to be hot but has gone cold, is key to understanding the real estate market today, real estate agents say. Although the inventory of unsold homes has dropped from its summer highs, the National Association of Realtors recently reported that there are 3.82 million existing homes for sale in the country, more than double the number on the market in early 2001, before the real estate boom began.

"When people have more choices, they become pickier," said Melinda Estridge, a real estate agent with Long & Foster in Bethesda. "People love to move in and not have to hassle with contractors."

So what are the new basics? Wood floors are high on everyone's list, said Jane Fairweather, an agent with Coldwell Banker in Bethesda. But a particular variety — bamboo, with its variegated honey tones and unique grain patterns — is losing popularity. The problem? They just aren't as durable as some other kinds of floors.

Fairweather, and many of the real estate agents surveyed, aren't too keen these days on those cool-looking bowl-style sinks, also known as vessel sinks. They look great in powder rooms, they say, but water can splash out on the floor, leaving the owner mopping up over and over, particularly during parties, when they are getting a lot of use.

Stainless steel kitchen appliances, not too long ago a must for any kitchen that wanted to be considered luxe, are beginning to get mixed reviews. The real estate agents gave them a thumbs-down, saying that many buyers were irritated by the need to wipe down the steel all the time to conceal fingerprints. Nash, who conducted the industry survey, acknowledges that builders say they help sell houses, but said some buyers who own them have gotten irritated by the upkeep.

> "When people have more choices, they become pickier. People love to move in and not hassle with contractors."
>
> **MELINDA ESTRIDGE**, REAL ESTATE AGENT

"I'm hearing people say, 'I'm tired of it,' " Nash said. "They say: 'I don't have time to polish it. It's too high maintenance.'"

KIRSTEN DOWNEY (WASHINGTON POST)

CONDOLiving

LIVE ONLINE

Home Front

Every week, The Washington Post **HOME STAFF** talks about various ways to improve your home. Find out about new trends, upcoming antiques shows and a variety of how-to help.

How can I make a room with low ceilings appear taller, especially when the room is open-plan with no walls dividing it up?

One way to keep the eye focused upward is to hang curtains at the ceiling level rather than at the top of the window. A large mirror will also expand the room, particularly if it is placed where it can reflect off a window. Using small-scale furniture, such as a love seat or several smaller upholstered chairs rather than a big honking sofa is another way to make your digs look roomier.

We just laid a new laminate floor in part of our house. I have dogs that tend to track little footprints everywhere. However, I hate the way the Pergo brand cleaner smells, and it seems to leave streaks. What else can I use to safely clean the floor?

Pergo is great for pets — I have a cat and I have no scratch marks on my kitchen Pergo after eight years. (I do have clawed upholstery, but that's another story.) Meanwhile, I just clean my Pergo by vacuuming and damp mopping. There is a recipe for a vinegar cleaner on pergo.com. There is a great new collection of Pergo designs featuring thin strips to replicate the random look of an authentic wood floor. They have faux oak, maple and cherry.

A couple weeks ago in the chat you said something like "having curtains that do not reach the floor is like wearing pants that don't reach your ankles." Is this true for all rooms, or just formal rooms? I have radiators underneath some windows that would look bunchy underneath floor-length curtains.

Right you are. You certainly don't want to interfere with those heat-generating radiators by blocking them with long curtains. We were speaking about windows that had nothing built under them, which includes air-conditioning units. In those cases, you're better off using something like a Roman shade, which can be an elegant fabric but tailored to the window dimensions.

I've been moving a lot lately and usually stay somewhere for a year before the next place. I want to buy a new couch that is versatile. At most places, the carpets are brown and the walls are white, so I want a couch that has more color. What color do you suggest that won't stick out too much next to the blah surroundings? Maybe a green suede?

How do you stand moving so much! I have lived in the same house for 20 years and can't imagine doing it.

You are usually dealing with blah surfaces in rental properties. So you could choose almost any color for a sofa. Green suede might not be too practical if you move a lot. It could look shopworn. If you can hold out, you might go to the new Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams store on 14th Street when it opens later this spring. The MG+BW sofas come in a variety of hip shades from powder blue to artichoke to paprika. Or check out the new daybeds coming to West Elm this spring. They could be a sexy look and also provide an extra sleeping space. They're only $399 in white or chocolate frame.

We're opening the wall between our living room and den, and want to paint each room so it complements the other, without them being the same exact color. We like neutral creams or soothing gray greens. Any suggestions?

You'll be so happy without that wall — I trust you've made sure it's not load-bearing. Try Benjamin Moore's Gray Cashmere, which has a touch of green, paired with Moonlight White or Cloud Nine, which are yummy off-whites.

Our master bath has a full-size window. We recently remodeled the room, but left the old plastic blinds. I'd like something a little nicer, but am not sure what to get.

You don't say where the window is in the room. If it's not inside the tub but on a wall, you can use a fabric shade, perhaps a polished cotton so there is moisture resistance. You can also do matchstick shades, which can stay rolled up when not in use, or even a honeycomb shade that is part slat and part mesh.

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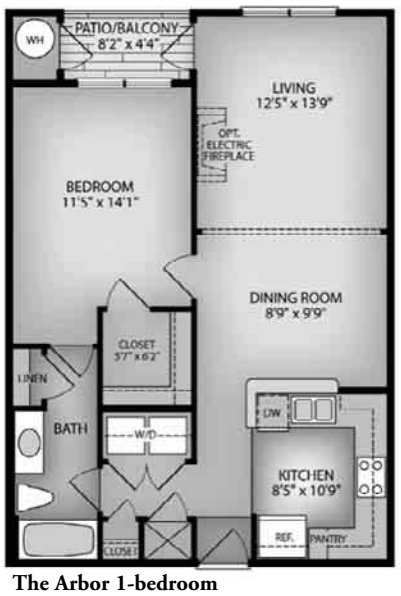

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